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**International Conference on Chemicals Management**

**Fourth session**

Geneva, 28 September–2 October 2015

**Report of the International Conference on Chemicals  
Management on the work of its fourth session**

**I. Opening of the session (agenda item 1)**

1. The fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management began at 3.10 p.m. on Monday, 28 September 2015, at the Centre International de Conférences de Genève in Geneva, with an introduction by Mr. Jacob Duer (United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)), Principal Coordinator for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, who acted as master of ceremonies.
2. Following a performance of traditional Swiss music and the presentation of a brief video on the role of the Strategic Approach to Chemicals Management in promoting a chemical-safe world, opening statements were delivered by Mr. Alexandre Fasel, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva; Ms. Ligia Noronha, Director, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, UNEP; and Mr. Richard Lesiyampe (Kenya), President of the Conference.
3. Mr. Fasel began by welcoming the participants to Geneva and affirming that the multisectoral, multi-stakeholder Strategic Approach remained the framework for progress towards the goal of ensuring that, by 2020, chemicals were produced and used in ways that minimized their adverse effects on human health and the environment, the importance of which was reflected in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals adopted the previous week in New York. The International Conference on Chemicals Management, in striving at the current session to determine the priorities and stakes for the period up to 2020 and beyond, would therefore need to examine how the Strategic Approach could best contribute to the implementation of those goals, such as through monitoring and follow-up. In addition to continuing its critical work on existing and emerging policy issues and other issues of concern, such as nanomaterials, environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants and highly hazardous pesticides, the Conference, he said, would also need to consider concrete actions that had a positive impact on the ground in order to maintain progress towards the achievement of the 2020 goal; the development of an intersessional process, with appropriate means and terms of reference, would be crucial to preparing relevant decisions for the fifth and final session of the Conference in 2020. Expressing confidence in the international community's ability to continue to capitalize on the potential of the Strategic Approach for fostering constructive and pragmatic dialogue, he wished the participants an excellent week.
4. Ms. Noronha, in her statement, said that the fourth session of the Conference was an opportunity to assess and celebrate progress to date and to renew the commitment to achieving the 2020 goal. The effectiveness and efficiency of the multisectoral and multi-stakeholder Strategic Approach, she said, had served to enhance the sound management of chemicals at the national, regional and global levels by promoting dialogue, fostering synergies and strengthening linkages between health and the environment. Meanwhile, contributions to the Quick Start Programme had

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\* Reissued for technical reasons on 23 May 2016.

provided for critical national capacity-building support, and existing resources for the chemicals and waste cluster would be complemented by the special programme on institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach. The chemicals and waste cluster now received greater attention at all levels, as reflected in the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals, and she expected the high-level segment to inspire discussion of how the Strategic Approach could contribute to their implementation. The issue of chemical safety, however, required the continued undivided attention of the international community to ensure that the jobs, trade and other benefits of the \$4 trillion chemicals industry were not undermined by significantly adverse effects on human health and the environment. She urged the Conference, in its consideration of the overall orientation and guidance towards the 2020 goal, to agree on a way forward that placed emphasis on efforts to convert policy decisions into concrete actions and the involvement of all sectors and stakeholders. As to the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, she invited the Conference to consider, among other things, the holistic approach needed to tackle issues such as the enormous volumes of solid waste produced in urban environments and the billions of people lacking access to adequate collection and disposal facilities, as highlighted in the recently launched Global Waste Management Outlook.

5. Expressing appreciation for the financial support for the current session by the Governments of Austria, Benin, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Guyana, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as the European Commission, she said that the secretariat and UNEP were ready to assist participants in their hard work over the coming week, which would call for a spirit of flexibility and compromise, and she wished them every success.

6. In his statement, Mr. Lesiyampe said that the current session of the Conference offered a platform for assessing the successes and achievements of the Strategic Approach, taking stock of the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals, identifying remaining gaps and challenges and adopting strategic decisions to pave the way for attainment of the 2020 goal. It also provided an opportunity to place sound chemicals and waste management at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda. Among the key items likely to generate the most discussion, he cited the overall orientation and guidance towards the 2020; emerging policy issues and other issues of concern; the sound management of chemicals in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals up to and beyond 2020; the activities and budget of the secretariat for the coming five years; and the closure of the Quick Start Programme trust fund, which had been instrumental in supporting initial capacity-building in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. In regard to the latter, he invited the Conference to identify new and non-traditional donors to supplement the crucial financial and technical support to be provided by mechanisms such as the Global Environment Facility and the special programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level.

7. Noting the heavy agenda before them, he urged participants to work together in a spirit of good faith, harmony, cooperation and compromise in order to achieve consensus. He then formally declared open the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

## **II. Organizational matters (agenda item 2)**

### **A. Election of officers**

8. In accordance with rules 14 and 19 of the rules of procedure the successors to the officers elected at the third session of the Conference<sup>1</sup> served as the Bureau during the current session. The Bureau was accordingly constituted as follows:

President:	Mr. Richard Lesiyampe (Kenya)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Heidar Ali Balouji (Islamic Republic of Iran)
	Mr. Vladimir Lenev (Russian Federation)
	Mr. Marcus Richards (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)
	Ms. Gabi Eigenmann (Switzerland)

Mr. Richards also served as Rapporteur, in line with the function he served at the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group.

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<sup>1</sup> See SAICM/ICCM.3/24, paras. 10–12, and SAICM/OEWG.2/13, paras. 11–13.

## 1. Bureau of the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

9. In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure the Conference elected the following members of the Bureau, whose terms would run from the closure of the current session to the closure of the next session of the Conference:

President: Mr. Alexander Nies (Germany)  
 Vice-Presidents: Ms. Leticia Carvalho (Brazil)  
 Mr. Mungath Madhavan Kutty (India)  
 Mr. Szymon Domagalski (Poland)  
 Mr. David Kapindula (Zambia)

10. In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure, the Conference elected by acclamation the following non-governmental representatives and representative of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) to participate in the discussions during the meetings of the Bureau:

Mr. Joseph DiGangi (International POPs Elimination Network) representing public interest non-governmental organizations  
 Mr. Robert Diderich (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development), current chair of IOMC  
 Mr. Brian Kohler (International Trade Union Confederation), representing labour organizations  
 Mr. Greg Skelton (International Council of Chemical Associations), representing industry  
 Ms. Susan Wilburn (Health Care Without Harm), representing the health sector

## 2. Quick Start Programme Executive Board

11. In accordance with resolution I/4 of the Conference, the Executive Board of the Quick Start Programme consists of representatives of two governmental participants from each of the five United Nations regional groups. Following their nomination by representatives of the regions the Conference elected the following representatives of governmental participants to serve on the Executive Board:

### Africa

Ms. Caroline Theka (Malawi)  
 Mr. Nadjo N'Ladon (Togo)

### Asia and the Pacific

Mr. Che Kodir Baharum (Malaysia)  
 Mr. Murad Ahmed Alfakih, (Yemen)

### Central and Eastern Europe

Ms. Lindita Tafaj (Albania)  
 Ms. Tatiana Tugui (Republic of Moldova)

### Latin America and the Caribbean

Ms. María Inés Esquivel (Panama)  
 Mr. Marcus Richards (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

### Western Europe and other States

Mr. Niko Urho (Finland)  
 Mr. Sverre Thomas Jahre (Norway)

**3. Regional focal points**

12. The Conference was informed that that the regional groups had designated the following new regional focal points, who would begin their terms upon the conclusion of the current session:

Africa

Mr. Kouame Georges Kouadio (Côte d'Ivoire)

Asia and the Pacific

Mr. Heidar Ali Balouji (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Central and Eastern Europe

Mr. Vladimir Lenev (Russian Federation)

Latin America and the Caribbean

Mr. Philip Pile (Barbados)

Western Europe and others

Ms. Suzanne Leppinen (Canada)

**B. Adoption of the agenda**

13. The Conference adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda set out in document SAICM/ICCM.4/1:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organizational matters:
  - (a) Election of officers;
    - (i) Bureau of the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management;
    - (ii) Quick Start Programme Executive Board;
    - (iii) Regional focal points and sectoral representatives;
  - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
  - (c) Organization of work.
3. Representation, credentials and accreditation.
4. Progress and challenges towards the achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management:
  - (a) Regional and sectoral achievements, strengths and challenges in the context of working towards the objectives of the Strategic Approach Overarching Policy Strategy;
  - (b) Report of the Quick Start Programme.
  - (c) Sound management of chemicals and waste in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.
5. Implementation towards the achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management:
  - (a) Overall orientation and guidance on the 2020 goal;
  - (b) Emerging policy issues and other issues of concern:
    - (i) Proposal on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants as a new emerging policy issue;
    - (ii) Proposal on highly hazardous pesticides as an issue of concern;
    - (iii) Existing emerging policy issues:
      - a. Lead in paint;
      - b. Chemicals in products;

- c. Hazardous substances within the life-cycle of electrical and electronic products;
  - d. Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials;
  - e. Endocrine-disrupting chemicals;
- (iv) Other issues of concern: perfluorinated chemicals.
6. Sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.
  7. Activities of the secretariat and budget:
    - (a) Proposed budget of the secretariat;
    - (b) Quick Start Programme Trust Fund.
  8. Venue and date of the fifth session of the Conference.
  9. Other matters.
  10. Adoption of the report.
  11. Closure of the session.

### C. Organization of work

14. In carrying out its work at the current session, the Conference had before it working and information documents pertaining to the various items on the session agenda. A list of those documents, arranged by agenda item, may be found in document SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/37.

15. With the exception of Monday, 28 September, when it met only in the afternoon, the Conference agreed to meet each day in plenary from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., subject to adjustment as necessary, and to establish such smaller groups as it deemed necessary, on the understanding that no more than one smaller group would work while plenary sessions were taking place and that no more than two smaller groups would otherwise meet simultaneously.

16. The session would be conducted as a paperless meeting, with documents made available in electronic format only except upon request.

### D. Attendance

17. The following governmental participants were represented: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe and the European Union.

18. The following governmental participants were represented as observers: Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Greece, Haiti, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Serbia, Slovakia, State of Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Yemen.

19. The following intergovernmental participants were represented: Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, Economic Commission for Europe, , Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Global Environment Facility, International Labour Organization, Office of the United Nations High

Commissioner for Human Rights, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, United Nations Development Programme, UNEP, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Office for Project Services, West African Economic and Monetary Union, World Health Organization.

20. The following non-governmental participants were represented: Adelphi Research, Agenda for Environment and Responsible Development, Amnesty International, Arab Network for Environment and Development, Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment, Association pour la Protection de l'Environnement et le Développement Durable de Bizerte (Association for the Protection of the Environment and the Sustainable Development of Bizerte), Association Ukrainian Chrysotile Corporation, Ban Toxics, Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the African Region, Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Latin American and Caribbean Region, Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Arab States in Egypt, Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Asia-Pacific region in China, Bipro, Building and Wood Workers International, Centre de Recherche et d'Éducation pour le Développement (Centre for Research and Education for Development), Centre for Environmental Justice and Development, Centre for Environmental Solutions, Centre for International Environmental Law, Centre for Public Health and Environmental Development, CIS Centre, Cleaner Production Centre of Serbia, Comité Permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte Contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel (Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel), CropLife International, Digital Europe, Earthjustice, Ecological Restorations, EcoLomics International, Endocrine Society, Environment and Social Development Organization, Environmental, Human Rights Care and Gender Organization (Envirocare), Finnish Environment Institute, Gita Pertiwi, Green Cross Switzerland, Greenpeace International, Greenwomen Analytical Environmental Agency, Health and Environment Alliance, Health Care Without Harm, Hydraulique sans Frontières (Hydraulics without Borders), Hypersand Communication Concepts and Solutions Ltd., Indy Act, International Campaign for Responsible Technology, International Council of Chemical Associations, International Council of Chemical Trade Associations, International Council on Mining and Metals, International Paint and Printing Ink Council, International Panel on Chemical Pollution, International POPs Elimination Network, International Society of Doctors for the Environment, International Trade Union Confederation, International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Worker's Associations, International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry - Committee on Chemistry and Industry, Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse, Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement Côte D'Ivoire, Land and Human to Advocate Progress, MAMA-86, National Toxics Network, Occupational Knowledge International, Oeko Institut, Open-ended Group on Indicators and Terminology, Outdoor Industry Association, Pesticide Action Network, Pesticide Action Nexus Association, Pure Earth, Red de Acción en Plaguicidas y Sus Alternativas para América Latina (Latin American Network on Pesticides and their Alternatives), Russian Chemists Union, Safety and Health Technology Centre, Sudanese Environment Conservation Society, Sustainable Research and Action for Environmental Development, Sustainlabour, Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Brazil, Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in the Czech Republic, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, Tarkett, Thanal Trust, The Ocean Clean-up, The Environment Action Network, Toxic Watch Network, Toxics Link, United States Council for International Business, U.S. Green Building Council, Welfare Togo, Women in Europe for a Common Future, World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry, World Federation of Public Health Associations, World Wide Fund for Nature, Zoë Environment Network.

## **E. General statements on the current session**

21. Following agreement on the organization of work the President invited regional and sectoral focal points and other participants to make general statements regarding their hopes and expectations for the current session.

22. The representative speaking on behalf of the Central and Eastern European region said that while steps had been taken under the Strategic Approach towards sound management of chemicals and wastes further efforts were needed to achieve the 2020 goal. The United Nations General Assembly's recent adoption of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development had shown that sound chemicals management was not a stand-alone matter, but would be a major cross-cutting element of the post-2015 development agenda within the context of

sustainable development. His region welcomed the overall orientation and guidance, including the 11 basic elements identified therein, and urged its adoption at the current session. Highlighting the importance his group attached to emerging policy issues, he invited the Conference to consider adoption of an omnibus decision that would recognize the equal importance of all such issues. He observed that new initiatives would mean increased expectations at the national and regional levels, and he invited all stakeholders to collaborate, build partnerships and demonstrate political will to ensure success in achieving the 2020 goal and to ensure that sound chemicals management would further contribute to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

23. The representative speaking on behalf of the African region also stressed the need for further efforts if the 2020 goal was to be attained. In addition, it was important to plan strategically beyond 2020, given that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognized that the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle was a prerequisite for sustainable development. He highlighted issues of particular importance to Africa, including elimination of highly hazardous pesticides, saying that the proposals before the Conference on that matter fell short of the region's expectations. In addition, with the Quick Start Programme drawing to an end, the effective and sustainable implementation of the Strategic Approach required the mobilization of other financial mechanisms and resources up to 2020 and beyond through an integrated approach. In conclusion, he said that the African region recognized the progress that had been made on emerging policy issues, but the issue of hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products remained of special concern to the region, which was a major destination for end-of-life electronic products. More activities and programmes were needed to deal with that issue.

24. A representative speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States said that those States were fully committed to ensuring the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycles. Sound management of chemicals and waste was an objective both in its own right and as a means of achieving sustainable development; it would also contribute to the “circular economy”, an objective gaining significance within the European Union. At the current session it was important to take stock of the progress made to date in achieving the 2020 goal, to identify areas where accelerated work was required and to consider the post-2020 agenda in the context of the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals. The European Union had in 2013 adopted its seventh environmental action programme, entitled “Living well, within the limits of our planet”. The programme recognized areas requiring further work, including the combining effects of chemicals, endocrine disruptors, chemicals in products and nanomaterials. There was also a need to improve the collection and availability of monitoring data, the coverage of vulnerable groups in risk assessments and certain aspects of waste management. The European Union had also agreed to develop, by 2018, a strategy for a non-toxic environment setting out its post-2020 chemicals agenda. Welcoming the priority-setting work done at the Strategic Approach regional meetings to identify the elements required at the national level to achieve the 2020 goal, he underlined the importance of including waste in the deliberations and actions under the Strategic Approach. Finally, he said that the European Union believed that the chemicals in products programme and those matters that had been identified as priorities during at least two regional priority-setting meetings, namely, endocrine-disrupting chemicals, financing for the Strategic Approach, highly hazardous pesticides and lead in paint, were all of great importance. As the Strategic Approach was critical to achievement of the new Sustainable Development Goals, he looked forward to progress towards the 2020 goal at the current session.

25. The representative speaking on behalf of the Asian-Pacific region spoke of the achievements, shortcomings and expectations experienced by the region. Achievements included establishing mechanisms for coordinating national stakeholders for better management of chemicals and waste; strengthening inter-agency cooperation at the national and regional levels; developing national and regional action plans and national chemicals profiles; providing accessible information to the public on the hazards of chemicals and wastes; increasing knowledge, awareness-raising and information sharing, especially on emerging policy issues, among government ministries and other stakeholders; and building capacity for chemical safety activities through the Quick Start Programme. With regard to shortcomings, the most prominent concerned gaps in financial support, capacity-building and technology transfer, and there was a need to further mobilize existing and new predictable, sustainable and dedicated sources of financial support for the implementation of the Strategic Approach in the region, including through continuation of the Quick Start Programme and its expansion to benefit more countries, while ensuring transparency in the allocation of funds. Expectations of the region included improved communication between the Secretariat and the regional and national focal points and between the regional coordination committee and the focal points; closing knowledge gaps in such areas as the impact of industrial, agricultural and other chemicals, and monitoring and evaluation; and

greater cross-border cooperation and training to reduce illegal international traffic. In conclusion, he said that most countries in the region believed that the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should remain a guiding element of policy formulation on sound chemicals management.

26. The representative speaking on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean region said that the Strategic Approach had benefited developing countries in a number of areas, including development of their national chemicals profiles and the initiation of activities at the national and regional levels such as the Mercosur action plan on chemicals and wastes and a project in coordination with the United States Environmental Protection Agency on the registration and transfer of contaminants. The region had displayed various strengths in chemicals management at the national and regional levels, including with the help of the Quick Start Programme, in areas such as the involvement of workers in programmes related to environmental health; the facilitation of non-governmental organization work with Governments; and the development of training materials on the safe handling of chemicals. The region still faced challenges in a number of areas, however, including implementation of action plans, coordination at the country level and financing for chemicals management, which was especially crucial given that production of certain chemicals was rapidly migrating to developing countries. There was also a continued need to strengthen regulatory frameworks to allow environmentally sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycles. Stable and predictable financing was needed to achieve strategic goals for the management of chemicals and wastes in the period up to 2020. In addition, the Conference at the current session should establish an intersessional process and mechanism for developing plans for sound chemicals management beyond 2020 for consideration at its fifth session, bearing in mind that chemicals management required constant financial and technical support, capacity-building and an understanding of the risks for human health and the environment. In conclusion, he said that the countries of his region were committed to participating with all sectors, both governmental and non-governmental, in the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste. The countries of the region felt that it was important to make progress in the consideration of measures to protect against adverse effects on human health and the environment of highly hazardous pesticides, persistent pharmaceuticals, chemical substances contained in electronic products and endocrine disrupting substances, among others. Such measures must respect agreed multilateral principles, including those in the World Trade Organization's Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.

27. A representative speaking on behalf of trade unions said that the achievements of the Quick Start Programme could be severely undermined if a new financial mechanism did not take into account issues of accessibility by all stakeholders and the adequacy and long-term sustainability of funding. Constructive discussions were needed at the current session on how the Strategic Approach was to be financed. Much still remained to be done, he continued, to achieve the decent work agenda as envisaged by the United Nations through the International Labour Organization and to realize the aim of safe and healthy work places, especially in developing countries. It was therefore vital to ensure the future of the Strategic Approach beyond 2020 by putting in place an accessible, adequate and sustainable financial mechanism and proper funding of the Secretariat to allow it to execute its obligations effectively. In conclusion, he said that workers and trade unions recognized the progress made on various issues, including emerging policy issues, and looked forward to constructive engagement to ensure that the current session responded to the needs of working people, their families and the general public.

28. A representative speaking on behalf of the health sector said that while significant progress towards the goal that by 2020 chemicals would be produced and used in ways that led to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, its full achievement would not be possible in the time remaining. A recent World Health Organization survey covering health sector governmental and non-governmental organizations from 51 countries had provided insight into the priorities of the health sector with regard to chemicals management. Governments placed importance on developing better ways to determine the impacts of chemicals on health to facilitate the formulation of strategies to prevent ill health caused by chemicals and to assist in building national capabilities to deal with chemical incidents. All respondents had emphasized the importance of formulating strategies directed specifically at the health of children. Non-governmental participants had identified as high priority actions to improve access to scientific knowledge and promote alternatives to highly toxic and persistent chemicals. All respondents had highlighted the need for awareness-raising and professional training in that area within the health sector. Awareness of environmental issues among health care institutions was apparent, with priority accorded to such issues as use of safe alternatives to harmful chemicals, waste reduction and recycling and environmentally safe treatment and disposal of wastes. Practical implementation of goals had



remained elusive, however, highlighting the need for further action to complete the unfinished agenda of the Strategic Approach in the health sector.

29. A representative speaking on behalf of industry said that the global chemicals industry believed in the Strategic Approach and in the adoption of a multi-stakeholder approach to achieve its aims. The global community had taken significant steps towards the 2020 goal, and the private sector had been a prominent partner in those efforts. Progress at the national level was key to the sound management of chemicals, and it was important to build the capacity of national actors with the assistance of the global chemicals industry. Sound management of chemicals went to the core of sustainable development and was a prerequisite for economic and social development, for protection of human health and the environment and for attracting investment and raising standards of living. The global chemicals industry would continue to take the initiative to develop new commitments and partnerships to advance the implementation of the Strategic Approach to 2020 and beyond.

30. A representative speaking on behalf of public interest organizations said that the Conference should adopt an intersessional process leading up to its fifth session on continuing the work of the Strategic Approach beyond 2020; that the overall orientation and guidance should focus on concrete action to eliminate sources of exposure such as eliminating lead in paint; that in response to the concerns expressed by many countries the Conference should establish a global alliance to phase out highly hazardous pesticides; that meaningful steps should be taken to deal with emerging policy issues, which were of great concern to developing countries and not covered by existing environmental treaties; and that sustainable new and additional funding was needed for the robust implementation of the Strategic Approach by developing countries and countries with economies in transition, especially given the conclusion of the Quick Start Programme.

31. The representatives of several individual Governments also made statements under the item. One outlined his country's experience with its national implementation plan for the management of chemicals and wastes, suggesting that it could be of use to other countries and expressing his country's willingness to share information on the subject. Another representative said that while the Strategic Approach had resulted in much progress there remained a gap between developed and developing countries in terms of implementation and the sound management of chemicals. Continued implementation of the Strategic Approach should give priority to addressing that gap and to ensuring the provision of adequate technical and financial assistance to developing countries in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. A third representative called for dedicated financing for Strategic Approach implementation.

### **III. Representation, credentials and accreditation (agenda item 3)**

32. The UNEP Senior Legal Officer reported that in accordance with rule 11 of the rules of procedure the Bureau had examined the credentials submitted by representatives of governmental participants for the current session. The representatives of 132 governmental participants had been registered for the session and were present. In accordance with rule 10 of the rules of procedure, the representatives of 103 such participants had submitted credentials issued either by a head of State or Government or by a minister for foreign affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization. Fifteen governmental participant representatives had presented credentials that had been issued in a form not consistent with the requirements of rule 10 of the rules of procedure, and those governmental participants were therefore considered to be observers for purposes of the current session. Fourteen governmental participant representatives had not submitted any credentials, and those governmental participants were therefore also considered to be observers.

33. The Conference approved the report of the Bureau on credentials.

### **IV. Progress and challenges towards the achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management (agenda item 4)**

#### **A. Regional and sectoral achievements, strengths and challenges in the context of working towards the objectives of the Strategic Approach Overarching Policy Strategy**

34. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat recalled that in accordance with paragraph 24 of the Overarching Policy Strategy the Conference undertook periodic evaluations of the Strategic Approach. To that end, at its third session the Conference had requested the secretariat to prepare a report on progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach for the period 2011–2013.

She then outlined the information in that report (SAICM/ICCM.4/3), which she said would be amended to rectify an omission regarding information submitted by Brazil, and introduced a number of information documents related to the sub-item (SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/1–4, INF/7, INF/24, INF/26 and INF/33–36).

35. The President then invited the regional focal points and sectoral representatives to provide updates on achievements, strengths and challenges in regional and sectoral implementation of the Strategic Approach to date, focusing on progress since the third session of the Conference.

36. The Central and Eastern European regional focal point expressed satisfaction at the positive results of the region's efforts to achieve the 2020 goal but expressed serious concern at the limited progress achieved at the global level and the suggestion in the secretariat's report that the gap between countries at different levels of development was widening. He called for implementation of the Global Plan of Action and encouraged all stakeholders to implement the activities suggested in the overall orientation and guidance, including the eleven basic elements therein for the period up to 2020, and offered to discuss how reporting might be further improved. Saying that the Quick Start Programme had helped to build and strengthen capacities in the region, he thanked Programme donors and welcomed the information provided on other possible sources of funding for the Strategic Approach, inviting stakeholders to help the Secretariat to further develop such documents. An integrated approach to financing, he said, was critical to achievement of the 2020 goal, and he welcomed the establishment of the Special Programme on institutional strengthening in the context of the integrated approach. He thanked the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) for their Strategic Approach activities, including the World Health Organization (WHO) for its increased engagement with the health sector under the Strategic Approach.

37. The representative speaking on behalf of the African region outlined activities undertaken in his region under the Strategic Approach, including 63 projects implemented under the Quick Start Programme that had helped to build and strengthen the capacities of many African countries to advance sound chemicals management. Projects addressed issues such as the phase-out of lead in petrol, poison control and information centres, chemical accident prevention and preparedness, research, development of legislation, the elimination of lead in paint and harmonized pesticide registration. Achievements included improvements in multi-stakeholder engagement, the recognition of sound chemicals management in the post-2015 development agenda, which would boost national efforts to mainstream such management into development policies, and the establishment of a regional association of pesticide regulators, a regional network on nanomaterials and an African chapter of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry. Remaining challenges included a lack of capacity to take action on priority chemicals; the import of hazardous waste disguised as used electrical and electronic equipment; the continued use of lead in decorative paints; insufficient financing for sound chemicals management; the stockpiling of obsolete pesticides; illegal traffic in hazardous chemicals and wastes; and chemical labelling.

38. The focal point for Western Europe and other States said that those countries were performing well against the five objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy. Nearly all had scientific committees to assess risk; most reported implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals; most had commissioned or funded extensive research; many were involved in the development of guidance and tools on chemicals under the auspices of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development guidance and IOMC and saw the widespread use of such tools as a means of achieving the 2020 goal; controls on illegal trade had been developed under existing governance structures as part of Strategic Approach mainstreaming efforts; and several countries were engaged in activities on emerging policy issues. At a meeting held in February 2014, the countries had expressed hope that their experience would help other countries to implement the Strategic Approach, to which many had contributed financially. The crucial role of chemical treaties and legislation, as well as the need to make existing guidance and information more user-friendly and to consider health and social issues in the implementation of the Strategic Approach, had also been identified.

39. The representative of the nine IOMC participating organizations drew attention to a report on Strategic Approach implementation activities carried out by the organizations since the previous session of the Conference (SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/2). He then introduced a document prepared by IOMC (SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/7) that provided an analysis of the implementation of Global Plan of Action and of progress and gaps in four areas, namely, chemical accidents and emergency response; the Globally Harmonized System; highly hazardous pesticides; and mainstreaming of sound management of chemicals into development policies. IOMC organizations had made a significant difference in areas where their mandates were clear and priority actions were defined, such as the

implementation of the Globally Harmonized System and chemical accident prevention. The document also contained a proposal for a set of indicators to track future progress of Strategic Approach implementation, which was meant to complement existing reporting arrangements with global data obtained by IOMC organizations and the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Minamata Convention and sought to track progress on the elimination of lead in paints, pesticide registration schemes coverage and access to poison centres.

40. A representative speaking on behalf of the chemical industry introduced a progress report on Strategic Approach implementation efforts since the third session of the Conference (SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/26), which outlined progress against 20 indicators and showed that good progress had been made in Western European and other States, in Central and Eastern Europe and in Asia and the Pacific. Efforts were under way to accelerate progress in Latin America and the Caribbean, where progress was static, and an Africa outreach strategy had been launched to enhance capacities and expand the Responsible Care programme in Africa, on which the report contained limited data given that only two countries were part of the programme network. The industry's association had continued to implement a global strategy to promote product stewardship throughout the life cycles of products, had held more than 170 industry capacity-building workshops, in particular in developing countries, and had posted on its website product safety summaries for over 4,600 frequently used chemicals. It had also partnered with stakeholders, including UNEP, to advance the sound management of chemicals and provided financial support to the secretariat of the Strategic Approach.

41. A representative speaking on behalf of public interest organizations reported that since 2012 such organizations had undertaken numerous activities to promote effective Strategic Approach implementation in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Those activities covered many of the elements of the Global Plan of Action and the themes of the Overarching Policy Strategy. She outlined the wide-ranging activities performed by non-governmental organizations and communities worldwide to promote chemical safety and Strategic Approach implementation, as detailed in the Citizens' Report contained in document SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/33, focusing in particular on progress achieved by way of global campaigns to eliminate lead in paint and mercury. A programme was under way in 29 countries to promote rapid ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and awareness-raising, capacity-building and information-sharing activities were being undertaken with the aim of reducing and eliminating highly hazardous pesticides and promoting safe alternatives. Non-governmental organizations were effective drivers of change and would continue to be vital to Strategic Approach implementation. Adequate and sustainable funding for that purpose was needed.

42. A representative speaking on behalf of the public health sector commended the work carried out on awareness-raising and the coordination of scientific information for the health sector, praising its regional and topical scope. He also welcomed the adoption of the Minamata Convention, highlighting its phase-out dates for mercury-added products and focus on health issues. Another significant development had been the creation of hospital databases for identifying and comparing chemicals in products on the basis of their toxic qualities and hazardous components, which was now a matter of increasing global concern. Progress towards the 2020 goal was thus gaining momentum in the public health sector and tools for translating scientific evidence into usable information had been devised, which boded well for further progress over the next decade. He drew attention to the emerging area of the environmental impact of pharmaceuticals, about which the health sector was learning a great deal.

43. The representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) highlighted two challenges to progress towards the 2020 goal: the first, as indicated in the responses to the second Strategic Approach reporting survey, was the need to strengthen communication between the health sector and other sectors at the country level with regard to activities to promote sound chemicals management; the second was the need for effective regional collaboration to stimulate and support country activities. Regarding the engagement of the health sector in the Strategic Approach, she drew attention to the report by WHO on the subject (SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/3) and cited the examples of a recent meeting on implementation of the Strategic Approach in the health sector in the WHO European Region; a 2015 assessment of chemicals and chemical management in Africa published by the WHO Regional Office for Africa, which included recommendations for supportive actions; the establishment of a new sub-network within the WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network that focused specifically on the needs of developing countries; and the dissemination of evidence-based technical reports on biomonitoring and the availability of poison control centres in Africa.

44. A representative speaking on behalf of trade unions provided numerous examples of projects implemented by trade unions across the globe in support of the Strategic Approach, adding that the

Quick Start Programme had been key for many of those projects and that access to programme funding would remain crucial. It was also crucial to address what he said was a lack of government consultation with unions on chemical regulation, the insufficient weight given by labour inspectors to worker accounts and experiences and the assumption underlying the multi-stakeholder approach that all stakeholders had equal resources and capacities for participation. He also said that bare-minimum compliance with legal requirements was not sufficient and that business confidentiality should not be allowed to stifle the setting of ambitious goals. Workers demanded the fundamental right to be fully informed about the hazards involved in their work; to refuse or shut down unsafe work without fear of reprisals; and to participate as equal partners in the policies, programmes and procedures of workplace health and safety. There was a serious deficit in freely available and reliable information about chemical hazards that should be corrected. Without proper chemicals management, the Sustainable Development Goal on decent work for all would be impossible to attain.

45. A representative of a human rights non-governmental organization said that it was necessary to prioritize access to information for individuals and communities affected by chemical leaks and toxic waste incidents, highlighting the well-known 1984 gas leak in Bhopal, India, and the 2006 dumping of toxic waste in Côte d'Ivoire. Companies should be required to disclose their human rights due diligence processes and information concerning the impact of their operations on the environment, public health and other matters of public interest. In addition, government agencies must be assured of the resources and capacities needed to verify the information provided. Mandatory disclosure would empower affected individuals to claim and protect their rights and hold the powerful to account, while serving as an effective tool for preventing abuses and corruption.

46. The representative of the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions reported on the outcomes of the 2015 meetings of the conferences of the parties to the three conventions contributing to achievement of the five objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy: the adoption of nine new technical guidelines under the Basel Convention and the addition of new chemicals to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (objective A: risk reduction); the adoption by all three conferences of identical decisions on a clearing-house mechanism to underpin policy and decision-making for the sound management of hazardous chemicals and waste (objective B: knowledge and information) and on the theme "from science to action"; recognition of the importance of enhanced cooperation and coordination with other international bodies, such as the Strategic Approach secretariat, as highlighted in document SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/24 (objective C: governance); the adoption of similar decisions on technical assistance and an agreement to extend the Basel Convention's Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment until 2017 (objective D: capacity-building and technical cooperation); and a request to the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to prepare recommendations on possible synergies for preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, a mandate for the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Basel Convention to develop guidance on dealing with illegally trafficked waste, and continuation of the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (objective E: illegal international traffic). The secretariat of the three conventions, he said, was a key Strategic Approach stakeholder and would continue to contribute to its implementation, providing inputs to relevant processes in areas of common interest and undertaking cooperative activities with the Strategic Approach secretariat.

47. A number of other representatives also spoke under the sub-item. One, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the overall orientation and guidance provided useful guidance, and he encouraged all stakeholders to undertake the suggested activities, including the 11 basic elements up to 2020, which he said were more important than activities in areas where indicators demonstrated less progress than expected. He welcomed the effort in the secretariat's report to relate indicators to those elements, saying that efforts should be made to improve the coverage of basic elements in future reporting. The widening capacity gap between countries at different levels of development was a concern and indicated that chemicals and waste policies should be included in national development plans, especially in the light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

48. One representative expressed gratitude for the support provided to his country by a range of organizations for Strategic Approach implementation and suggested that short-term measurable targets should be set with a view to promoting regional progress towards achievement of the 2020 goal.

## **B. Report of the Quick Start Programme**

49. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to a summary report on the status of the Quick Start Programme and its Trust Fund (SAICM/ICCM.4/4), noting that projects in over 100 countries, including 54 least developed countries and small island developing States, had been approved for funding through the trust fund since 2006. Recalling that the

Conference, at its third session, had decided to extend the term for contributions to the Trust Fund until the current session and had agreed that the funds committed to projects before the closure of the Trust Fund could continue being disbursed until all approved projects in the portfolio had been completed, he said that the secretariat proposed, pursuant to the decision of the Executive Board of the Quick Start Programme at its ninth meeting, that the Trust Fund be closed on 31 July 2019. That recommendation would be discussed under agenda item 7 (b). He also drew attention to the final report on the impact evaluation of the Quick Start Programme produced, at the request of the Executive Board, by independent evaluators (SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/5).

50. Mr. Robert Nurick, lead consultant in charge of the impact evaluation, then gave a presentation on the results of the evaluation, outlining the information presented in the report on the evaluation (SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/5). The evaluation had shown, among other things, that the inclusive and participatory process of developing, submitting and securing funding for project proposals had been largely positive; that almost every project had reported improved awareness of the importance of the sound management of hazardous chemicals and had laid the foundations for stakeholder cooperation, with many examples of increased trust between government, civil society and the private sector; that industry involvement was common but the multi-stakeholder approach had not ensured the equal participation of women; and that there were many examples of chemicals being mainstreamed into national legislation, policies or institutions as a result of the projects, even though some countries had been unable to integrate project action plans into official policies or mandates.

51. Regarding the impact of Quick Start Programme-funded projects on the implementation of the Strategic Approach, he said that most had met the objective of initiating implementation through initial capacity-building and other activities and had contributed to several Overarching Policy Strategy objectives: most had made progress on governance issues while relatively few had tackled the issue of illegal traffic in hazardous chemicals and wastes. As to the 11 basic elements of the overall orientation and guidance on the 2020 goal, most of the projects had contributed to elements (a) (legal frameworks) and (d) (cooperation between stakeholders), while the least frequently addressed was element (k) (environmentally sound and safer alternatives). After listing the main conclusions of the evaluation, he closed his presentation with the list of recommendations for addressing the various gaps identified and furthering the development of the Quick Start Programme, as set out in section 5 of the report.

52. In the ensuing discussion, general appreciation was expressed for the report prepared by the secretariat and the work and report of the independent impact evaluators. One representative said that the report provided a good overview and useful information on specific outcomes of the Quick Start Programme. Another, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed in particular the conclusion that the Programme had “demonstrably met, and in many cases exceeded, its objective of establishing enabling environments for sound management of chemicals at the national level”. One representative expressed concern that the final report on the Quick Start Programme impact evaluation had not been posted on the Strategic Approach website until 27 September 2015. Several representatives called for the Programme to place greater emphasis on improving project management, monitoring and follow-up, especially for developing countries, so as to maintain the momentum created after projects were completed and to ensure that their achievements were consolidated. A particular emphasis, according to one, needed to be placed on the issue of tackling illegal traffic.

53. Most representatives who took the floor, including two speaking on behalf of donors to the Trust Fund, expressed gratitude and support for the Quick Start Programme itself, with many highlighting the positive experience of their respective Governments and organizations with projects in areas such as improving chemical safety in domestic and occupational settings; more effective labelling of chemicals; strengthening linkages between human health and the environment, including at the regional level, enhancing health sector involvement in sound chemicals management; implementing chemicals substitution and management programmes in health-care facilities; and awareness-raising and basic training on hazardous chemicals and their effects for health-care professionals, which also took into account gender since the majority of nurses in many countries were female. One representative said that the inclusiveness of the Programme had facilitated efforts to resolve chemicals management issues by enabling more effective policymaking and implementation. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of intergovernmental organizations, said that the benefits of the Quick Start Programme could be increased by ensuring that the outputs of projects such as reports, whether published or not, were shared, including through the Strategic Approach clearing house mechanism.

54. Many representatives highlighted the key role played by the Quick Start Programme and its trust fund in facilitating capacity-building and technical cooperation and enabling many countries to address national and regional priorities. Many representatives expressed concern regarding what would replace the Quick Start Programme and its Trust Fund. Several said that the evaluators’ report

indicated a clear need for a predictable financial mechanism if developing countries and countries with economies in transition were to implement the overall orientation and guidance, achieve the 2020 goal and meet the challenges of sound chemicals management within the 2030 Agenda for Development. One representative expressed concern that the special programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level would not be adequate as a source of funding in the many different contexts covered by the Strategic Approach; another said that a multi-stakeholder forum such as the Strategic Approach needed a multi-stakeholder funding mechanism. Two representatives cited the Global Environment Facility model as a possible alternative.

55. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said the decision on the date for the closure of the Quick Start Programme trust fund should be left to the Quick Start Programme Executive Board in order to maximize the use of resources, including the possible redeployment of staff, and that the budget for staff should be reduced as appropriate as the trust fund neared closure. He also expressed the hope that the contributions agreed through the current session, together with any funds returned from projects, would be sufficient to cover all approved but as yet unfunded projects, adding that any unfunded projects should be considered to have been cancelled.

### **C. Sound management of chemicals and waste in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals**

56. The representative of the secretariat, introducing the issue, said that the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, held in New York during the week prior to the current session, had adopted a post-2015 development agenda, including 17 Sustainable Development Goals with 169 targets, which would guide sustainable development efforts until 2030. Known as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it presented an opportunity for fostering cross-cutting collaborative approaches and actions towards the sound management of chemicals and waste. The Strategic Approach secretariat, in cooperation with a range of partners, had made a number of efforts to ensure that issues related to chemicals and waste were integrated into relevant Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets. He introduced the meeting documents pertaining to the issue.

57. In the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives welcomed the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals, and the role that the Strategic Approach had played in ensuring inclusion, as target 12.4, of the 2020 goal of achieving the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle. Some representatives suggested factors that they said needed to be considered to ensure achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals generally, and of target 12.4 in particular. Several representatives gave examples of activities that their countries were already undertaking to make progress towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including in the chemicals and waste area. One representative said that it was important to identify data sources through which achievement of the goals could be monitored and to ensure that the cost of inaction was well articulated. Several representatives said that it was important to develop clear, measurable indicators to ensure proper monitoring of progress towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Another representative said that Strategic Approach contributions would be important to achieving target 2.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals through progressively phasing out highly hazardous pesticides and advancing ecological food production.

58. Several representatives stressed the importance of ensuring the continued contribution of the Strategic Approach to the sound management of chemicals and waste in the context of promoting sustainable development. One representative said that the Strategic Approach should not be seen just as a source of indicators but as an integral partner guiding all stakeholders towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Another representative said that the real work lay ahead, with the implementation of the goals at the national and international level; in that regard the Strategic Approach, with its multisectoral and multi-stakeholder structure, was the ideal platform to deal with the chemicals-related aspects of the 2030 Agenda.

59. In that regard, a number of representatives underscored the cross-cutting nature of chemicals and wastes in many of the goals and targets, and several pointed out particular targets to which sound management of chemicals and waste would make a significant contribution, including in the areas of health and well-being, gender equality, sustainable agriculture and industry, poverty eradication, decent work for all and marine pollution. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the secretariat's progress report on the implementation of the Strategic Approach for the period 2011–2013 had shown that many countries had still not included chemicals and wastes as a key component of national development plans or in sectoral budgets, and there was a clear need for more mainstreaming of sound chemicals management in national planning.

60. Several representatives said that a collaborative and cooperative approach involving all stakeholders, including United Nations agencies, multilateral environmental agreements and chemicals-related conventions, was necessary to achieve practical results at the national level in achieving sound chemicals management. The representative of the IOMC said that IOMC participating organizations were preparing implementation strategies for the Sustainable Development Goals and would take the lead in monitoring their achievement, as they had done for the Millennium Development Goals. In addition, they would support countries in their efforts to achieve the sound management of chemicals and wastes. The representative of UNEP highlighted joint activities undertaken by UNEP with other organizations to make the business case for implementing the new Sustainable Development Goals, creating a stable environment for investment, focusing on indicators and targets, and communicating in an innovative manner with other stakeholders. The representative of the United Nations Environment Management Group presented a report on the United Nations system-wide contribution to achieving the sound management of chemicals and waste (SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/6), stressing the need for a holistic approach.

61. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that implementation of appropriate national measures to achieve the chemicals-related Sustainable Development Goals would require mobilization of sustainable, predictable, adequate and accessible financing. One representative said that national circumstances, capacities and development priorities should be taken into account, adding that all countries would be able to implement their national development agendas and meet development targets if there were clear means of implementation.

62. The Conference welcomed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and agreed to consider them in resolutions related to achievement of the 2020 goal and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

## **V. Implementation towards the achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management (agenda item 5)**

### **A. Overall orientation and guidance on the 2020 goal**

63. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat recalled that, following the high-level dialogue during its third session, the Conference had agreed to request the secretariat to prepare overall orientation and guidance on what needed to be done to achieve the 2020 goal. The overall orientation and guidance identified six core activity areas for implementing the objectives set out in the Overarching Policy Strategy for the 2015–2020 period and 11 basic elements critical at the national and regional levels to the attainment of sound chemicals and waste management. She introduced the meeting documents pertaining to the issue, including in particular document SAICM/ICCM.4/6, which set out a draft resolution endorsing and operationalizing the overall orientation and guidance. In his introduction the President recalled that the overall orientation and guidance had been carefully discussed at the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group; following that meeting it had been finalized by the secretariat under the guidance of the Bureau in accordance with the wishes of the Open-ended Working Group. The Bureau considered the text of the guidance to be final, and the Conference at the current session was expected to focus its discussions on the related draft resolution.

64. The representative of Switzerland introduced a conference room paper submitted by the Governments of the Gambia, Jordan, Senegal, Switzerland and Yemen that proposed amendments to the draft resolution in document SAICM/ICCM.4/6. The proposals, he said, aimed to recognize the work of the regions in developing the overall orientation and guidance, to place greater emphasis on the potential of the Strategic Approach as a coordinating platform within the chemicals and waste cluster, to provide more specific guidance to the Global Environment Facility on funding priorities and to ensure that the planned clearing-house mechanism built on the existing mechanism of IOMC members as well as that of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

65. The representative of the European Union and its member States introduced a conference room paper containing proposals on implementation towards the achievement of the 2020 goal, building on the draft resolution set out in document SAICM/ICCM.4/6. The proposals covered such areas as the development of workplans to identify actions needed to meet the 2020 goal, the need for an independent evaluation of the impact of the Strategic Approach in relation to the 2020 goal for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its third meeting, equal emphasis on all emerging policy issues and support for national and possibly regional focal points in respect of additional responsibilities placed on them by the overall orientation and guidance.

66. In the ensuing discussion all representatives who spoke welcomed the overall orientation and guidance, saying that it was important to the achievement of the 2020 goal, and several said that they wished to discuss the accompanying draft resolution in a contact group. One representative said that he wished to suggest amendments to the overall orientation and guidance, while several others said that it had already been carefully negotiated and accepted and should not be reopened for further discussion. One representative said that in the core element referring to mainstreaming, care should be taken to ensure that any proposed actions respected rights and obligations under existing chemicals-related conventions. She also called on developed countries and multinational organizations to provide financial and technical assistance to developing countries to improve their capacities. Another representative said that it was critical to prioritize activities so that resources were allocated where they would have the biggest impact. The representative of the United States of America announced a contribution by her Government of \$750,000 to the special programme on institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach.

67. One representative, supported by another, said that while health sector priorities were well reflected in the overall orientation and guidance, and correlated well with the 11 basic elements, the language used differed from that employed in the sector, such that health sector stakeholders might have difficulty recognizing the health-related provisions of the guidance. She proposed that the problem be addressed through amendment of the related draft resolution.

68. The representative of IOMC said that participating organizations already implemented projects relevant to all elements of the overall orientation and guidance and were committed to continuing to do so. They planned to coordinate their activities in implementing the guidance and would share their plans in that regard with other Strategic Approach stakeholders. He also highlighted an IOMC project to develop a toolbox for decision-making in chemicals management and drew attention to a proposal (SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/7) for 10 simple quantitative indicators for assessing progress in sound chemicals management at the national level.

69. Mr. Baskut Tuncak, Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, made a statement in which he viewed chemicals management through the lens of human rights. He recalled that in 2006 in Dubai, participants at the first session of the Conference had committed in the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management to respect human rights. Since then positive steps had been taken, but in all countries more work was needed. Rights being violated by toxic chemicals included the right to life, the right to the highest attainable standard of health, the right to nutritious food, the right to safe water, the right to information and the right to effective remedies. More strategic actions were needed to narrow critical gaps in the attainment of human rights, particularly among vulnerable groups, including workers, women, children and low-income, minority and marginalized communities and indigenous peoples. Resolving related injustices was integral to achieving the sound management of chemicals. He was pleased to note that the overall orientation and guidance included basic elements and clear action points to better enable the realization of the right to information on hazardous substances and waste.

70. Following the discussions, the Conference agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Ms. Leticia Carvalho (Brazil) and Ms. Anette Ejersted (Denmark), to discuss the matter further. The group would finalize the draft resolution on the overall orientation and guidance set out in document SAICM/ICCM.4/6, taking into account the discussion in plenary and the conference room papers introduced by Switzerland and the European Union. It was also agreed that the contact group would consider cross-cutting issues such as the Sustainable Development Goals, as relevant.

71. Following the work of the contact group the Conference adopted resolution IV/1, on implementation towards the achievement of the 2020 goal (see annex I).

## **B. Emerging policy issues and other issues of concern**

72. Introducing the item, the Vice-President<sup>2</sup> recalled that one of the functions of the Conference under the Overarching Policy Strategy was to identify and call for appropriate action on emerging policy issues. Four issues would be considered under the item, namely, a proposal to list environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants as a new emerging policy issue; a proposal to address highly hazardous pesticides as an issue of concern; progress achieved in relation to existing

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<sup>2</sup> At the request of the President, Mr. Lenev presided over the meeting that took place on the afternoon of Tuesday, 29 September.



emerging policy issues; and progress achieved in relation to other issues of concern, including perfluorinated chemicals.

73. The Conference also considered two proposals, contained in conference room papers submitted by the European Union and by the Governments of Senegal, Switzerland and Thailand, respectively, containing text for a draft omnibus resolution on the emerging issues and issues of concern under consideration.

#### **1. Proposal on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants as a new emerging policy issue**

74. The representative of the Secretariat introduced a note prepared by the Secretariat on the nomination of environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants as a new emerging policy issue under the Strategic Approach (SAICM/ICCM.4/7), which had been submitted by the Governments of Peru and Uruguay and the International Society of Doctors for the Environment, and three related information documents (SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/15, SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/23 and SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/28).

75. The representative of Uruguay said that the proposal sought to give greater visibility to, and promote collaboration on, environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants; to promote greater coordination and synergies among existing initiatives; and to improve the capacity of countries to evaluate and manage risks associated with such pollutants. The proposal invited IOMC organizations to facilitate collaborative action, to develop a workplan on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants and to report on such activities to the Conference at its fifth session.

76. In the ensuing discussion many representatives, including two speaking on behalf of groups of countries, expressed support for the proposal to include environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants as a new emerging policy issue under the Strategic Approach, with one saying in that context that countries must comply with multilateral trade agreements, including on phytosanitary measures and technical barriers to trade.

77. Several representatives expressed concern about the presence of pharmaceuticals in the environment, including water, with one saying that even low concentrations of pharmaceutical pollutants might have long-term negative impacts on human health and the environment and another drawing attention to recent studies indicating that some pharmaceuticals posed risks to biodiversity. It was therefore necessary to develop knowledge and raise awareness about the potential environmental and health risks of environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants, including potential effects from chronic exposure of pregnant women and children to low levels of such pollutants, and to develop knowledge-based and coordinated action at the international level. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, suggested that United Nations organizations be invited to deepen scientific knowledge on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants with a view to providing recommendations for the most urgent actions, including technical solutions, for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its third meeting. Several representatives stressed the idea that coordinated international action was needed to address the challenges posed by environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants.

78. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that financial and technical support should be provided to developing countries to help them implement measures to deal with environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants, including through research and sound management of pharmaceutical waste, with one calling for the establishment of a team of experts to accelerate relevant research. Another called for the establishment of a framework to encourage meat producers to avoid abusing veterinary drugs in meat production and to raise public awareness on avoiding self medication. Another representative said that more data was needed on the possible link between endocrine-disrupting chemicals, which might be persistent pharmaceutical pollutants or highly hazardous pesticides, and obesity, and on the possible effect of pharmaceuticals on the marine environment. He further called for the biomonitoring of fish, which could be a source of human exposure to such chemicals. The representative of a health care non-governmental organization said that while many countries were taking action on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants, additional work was needed to monitor the issue and address potential risks, in particular in developing countries.

79. One representative suggested that WHO and relevant international bodies be requested to engage in collaborative efforts to develop good pharmaceutical manufacturing practices covering environmental aspects. Another, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, suggested that WHO and other relevant IOMC organizations be asked to coordinate action on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants. He also encouraged the pharmaceutical industry to actively support action

on such pollutants. Another called on the industry to develop pharmaceuticals that were not environmentally persistent.

80. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the environmental aspects of pharmaceutical safety were not always comprehensively regulated by domestic or regional pharmaceutical authorities or arrangements. Another representative said that her country did not believe that the Strategic Approach was the appropriate forum in which to address issues related to the design of pharmaceuticals or related health questions concerning drug interactions; her country could, however, support the proposal, which she said fell within the scope of the Strategic Approach.

81. One representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries suggested that activities on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants should build synergies with existing initiatives, such as those on endocrine-disrupting chemicals and those of the United Nations Informal Interagency Task Team for Sustainable Procurement in the Health Sector. He also suggested that actions proposed in a European Union study on the environmental risks of medicinal products and the documentation presented at a workshop on pharmaceuticals in the environment held in 2014 (SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/23) should be considered when developing such activities.

82. The representative of WHO outlined various activities by WHO regarding pharmaceuticals, including on good manufacturing practices and environmental due diligence, capacity-building for monitoring and treatment of drinking water and the development of indicators to measure progress on the sustainable development goal regarding water and sanitation, which might address pharmaceutical pollutants. With regard to the proposal under consideration, it was critical to develop clear goals and focused activities. WHO would contribute to such activities within the scope of its mandate, but results would ultimately depend on the active participation of Governments and on donor support.

83. The representative of UNEP said that information, knowledge-sharing and research on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants was needed, including on their environmental impacts, and that UNEP was ready to work with other IOMC organizations and with Strategic Approach stakeholders to address the issue.

84. Observing that environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants included endocrine-disrupting chemicals, one representative said that actions to address such pollutants should prioritize sensitive endpoints, systematically consider the potential effects of very small amounts of pollutants and their ability to act synergistically with endocrine-disrupting chemicals from other sources, including non-persistent chemicals, and study their potential long-term and transgenerational effects. Activities on endocrine-disrupting chemicals appropriate to such pollutants included awareness-raising for health practitioners, outreach to vulnerable groups, monitoring and the involvement of endocrine scientists in efforts to address the potential effects of such pollutants on humans and wildlife.

85. A representative of the pharmaceutical industry said that the industry was committed to sound environmental practices and to participation in the Strategic Approach. One example of that commitment was its presentation at a 2014 workshop organized by the German Federal Ministry of Environment on “eco-pharmaco-stewardship” (EPS), an approach being developed to better understand and manage the behaviour of pharmaceutical residues in the environment. EPS promoted information sharing and education on the proper use and disposal of pharmaceuticals, focusing on areas where the greatest impact could be made, including the management of pharmaceutical manufacturing effluents; it relied on well-known principles of product stewardship and was based on the view that all who benefitted from the use of products throughout their life cycles shared in the responsibility for their environmentally sound management. In the view of the industry, work on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants should focus on information exchange and the coordination of activities, with knowledge gained being applied in a step-wise, risk-based manner that eschewed the premature development of proposed solutions before the underlying risks were understood. The goal of good manufacturing practice was first and foremost to ensure the availability of safe and high-quality medicines for patients, and adding an environmental component to good manufacturing practice risked undermining that goal. The industry, he concluded, welcomed the opportunity to contribute to any contact group that might be formed and to participate in follow-up actions arising from the current session.

86. One representative questioned whether it was acceptable to exchange information through the secretariat's information clearing house.

87. Following the discussion the President observed that there was general agreement that environmental persistent pharmaceutical pollutants should be considered to be an emerging policy issue under the Strategic Approach. The Conference then decided to establish a contact group on

emerging policy issues and other issues of concern, chaired by Ms. Cheryl Beillard (Canada) and Ms. Silvija Kalnins (Latvia). The group was to seek agreement on collaborative action on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants, using the draft resolution text in document SAICM/ICCM.4/7 as its starting point.

88. Following the work of the contact group the Conference agreed to environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants as a new emerging policy issue and adopted resolution IV/2, an omnibus resolution on emerging policy issues, including environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants (see annex I).

## **2. Proposal on highly hazardous pesticides as an issue of concern**

89. The representative of the Secretariat introduced a proposal on next steps for highly hazardous pesticides developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNEP and WHO (SAICM/ICCM.4/8), related information documents (SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/29 and INF/32), and two conference room papers on highly hazardous pesticides.

90. Introducing the proposal by FAO, UNEP and WHO, which had been prepared in accordance with a request by the Open-ended Working Group at its second meeting, the representative of FAO said that it recognized the need for concerted action on highly hazardous pesticides and proposed to align activities with guidelines being developed by an FAO-WHO expert panel that recommended a three-step approach. Such steps consisted of the identification of highly hazardous pesticides; assessment of the need for and risks of such pesticides; and determination of appropriate risk mitigation measures, which ranged from prohibiting such pesticides to changes in their use. The process involved case-by-case analyses, since needs and risks varied depending on product, purpose, conditions of use and availability of alternatives, but the most sustainable alternatives should be chosen in accordance with integrated pest and vector management approaches.

91. Introducing a conference room paper setting out a draft resolution on highly hazardous pesticides co-sponsored by his Government, and a number of other Governments and non-governmental organizations, the representative of Yemen said that the proposal reflected the concerns of the Strategic Approach regions about highly hazardous pesticides and called on the Conference to endorse the formation of a global alliance to phase out such pesticides; invited stakeholders to become members of the alliance and, where appropriate, to contribute financial or in-kind resources or expertise towards the development and implementation of activities; and requested the global alliance to adopt its terms of reference, which should identify as its broad objective the progressive phase-out of the manufacture, import, export, sale and use of highly hazardous pesticides, with special attention to pesticides that were unsafe under ordinary conditions of use in low-income and middle-income countries.

92. The representative of the Pesticide Action Network, speaking as a co-sponsor of the draft resolution, said that the resolution sought to address the urgent need for action to achieve a progressive phase-out of highly hazardous pesticides, recommended by the FAO Council in 2006, and thereby address the long-standing problem of farmer poisonings due to continued use of such substances. There was overwhelming evidence that safer alternatives could improve food security and increase farmer incomes and resilience in the face of climate change, and the Strategic Approach could play a key role in coordinating action to support a transition to such alternatives by farmers and countries.

93. The representative of CropLife International expressed support for the proposal by FAO, UNEP and WHO but said that it was essential that risk-based approaches form the basis of all efforts to manage highly hazardous pesticides so as to give Governments the freedom to make their own decisions. He then introduced a conference room paper setting out a CropLife International position paper on highly hazardous pesticides that outlined activities implemented by the crop protection industry to mitigate risks associated with highly hazardous pesticides, including through voluntary withdrawal of specific products following risk assessments, and said that a global alliance to phase out highly hazardous pesticides would duplicate existing and planned activities without adding value, unnecessarily divert FAO resources and limit the choices available to Governments and farmers to combat pests and diseases.

94. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the proposal submitted by FAO, UNEP and WHO and said that activities under the proposed strategy should focus on strengthening the capacity of countries to manage risks from highly hazardous pesticides, including through training and awareness-raising for key stakeholders such as farmers and other pesticide users, improvement of national laboratory analytical capacities, promotion of integrated pest and vector management, improved pesticide registration and regulatory controls, greater cross-border cooperation and border control to better manage trade in dangerous products; and

promotion of the use of safe alternatives such as biopesticides. Two also said that it was important to ensure coordination among organizations and other stakeholders working on the issue to avoid duplication of effort.

95. One representative expressed support for the draft resolution presented by Yemen on behalf of a group of countries and non-governmental organizations, drawing attention to women and child agricultural workers as particularly vulnerable groups that she said would benefit from a progressive phase-out of highly hazardous pesticides. She said that coordinated action at the international level was needed to monitor progress and ensure that such phase-out was effectively achieved, as were additional work by United Nations agencies to promote agro-ecology and the adoption of measures to support workers in the chemical industry whose livelihoods might be affected by the phase-out.

96. One representative expressed support for the proposal to establish a global alliance on highly hazardous pesticides, citing as a model the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint. Another representative said that the proposed global alliance could serve as a platform for mutually beneficial cooperation and exchange of information and best practices, adding that in dealing with highly hazardous pesticides efforts should be made to minimize any potential disruption to farmers' livelihoods and community well-being.

97. Another representative said that there was value in promoting the exchange of available information and best practices, but the idea of a global alliance had been discussed at the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and had not gained support. Work on highly hazardous pesticides under the Strategic Approach should focus on empowering countries and other stakeholders to better manage those substances in a manner consistent with national legislative and regulatory realities and challenges. Such a strategy should be flexible and should engage a range of tools that could be used by countries with or without existing legislative or regulatory frameworks for dealing with highly hazardous pesticides. Her delegation did not support the development of a list of highly hazardous and potentially hazardous pesticides, and efforts to regulate highly hazardous pesticides should adopt a risk-based approach.

98. One representative said that technical assistance and capacity-building were needed to help countries to deal with highly hazardous pesticides, and further efforts should be made to ensure the availability of alternatives that were scientifically and technically proven, environmentally benign, economically viable, commercially available and applicable to specific agricultural systems. Another representative said that the pesticide industry should take greater responsibility for regulating the use of hazardous pesticides and mitigating risks and that research communities should enhance research and information sharing on the effects of highly hazardous pesticides. Another representative said that decisions on the regulation of pesticides should be linked to actual conditions of use in countries, and the sovereign rights of countries to react to scientific evidence based on local circumstances should be respected.

99. The Conference decided that the contact group established to consider emerging policy issues and other issues of concern would further discuss highly hazardous pesticides, with the aim of preparing a draft resolution for consideration by the Conference, basing its work on the draft resolution text in document SAICM/ICCM.4/8 and the draft resolution in the conference room paper presented by Yemen on behalf of a group of countries and non-governmental organizations.

100. Following the work of the contact group the Conference adopted resolution IV/3, on highly hazardous pesticides (see annex I).

### **3. Existing emerging policy issues**

101. The representative of the secretariat introduced the documents relevant to the sub-item, recalling that the existing emerging policy issues under consideration were lead in paint, chemicals in products, hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials, and endocrine-disrupting chemicals. The Conference was invited to review the progress made on each issue, to consider proposed plans for further work on each issue and, where necessary, to suggest specific follow-up actions in a relevant resolution.

#### **(a) Lead in paint**

102. At the request of the President the representative of WHO, speaking also on behalf of UNEP, reported on progress with regard to lead in paint since the previous session of the Conference, including the work of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, outlining the information in a report prepared by UNEP and WHO (SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/14), adding that the Advisory Group for the Alliance had just agreed on an action plan for 2015–2016. She also drew attention to a status report

on legally-binding controls on lead paint (SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/25), which provided information reported by 124 Governments on the status of national lead paint regulation. Of the 124 Governments, 59 had reported that their countries had legally-binding restrictions on the use of lead in paint; 65 had reported having no such restrictions, with 3 of the 65 indicating that lead paint was no longer available in their countries; 18 had reported that such measures were being developed; and 7 had reported the existence of voluntary standards. The remaining countries had yet to submit the national data needed to track progress towards the target of having lead paint controls in place in all countries by 2020. Describing key developments not mentioned in the documents, she highlighted the international lead poisoning prevention week of action (25–31 October 2015), coordinated by WHO; the campaign of the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), supported by UNEP, to sample and test lead content in marketed decorative paints; and the recent launch by the Global Alliance of an Internet-based toolkit to assist Governments in establishing national frameworks for implementing and enforcing controls on lead in paint. Governments and other Strategic Approach stakeholders were encouraged to participate in Global Alliance activities with a view to, among other things, accelerating progress towards the 2020 goal.

103. In the ensuing discussion, general appreciation was expressed for the reports and for the progress made as a result of the work of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint and its lead organizations. Several representatives said that the Alliance was crucial to the promotion of, among other things, awareness-raising, training, research and technology and information exchange, as well as assessments of impacts on health and the environment. Some representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, urged all countries and stakeholders to join the Alliance, with one adding that it was an opportunity to collaborate with others and to gain access to crucial information for national phase-out efforts.

104. Some representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that studies had shown the absence of strictly enforced regulatory controls to have allowed manufacturers to continue to market enamel paints with a high lead content, in spite of the availability of viable alternatives. One commended the countries that had already adopted such controls and encouraged others to do likewise as soon as possible, adding that regulatory action also needed to target manufacturers and traders. Several representatives highlighted the measures taken in their countries to eliminate lead in architectural, industrial and decorative paints, including through the listing of lead paint as a hazardous substance. One representative said that industry supported the elimination of new decorative paints containing lead additives globally by 2020. Some representatives said that industry's position in that regard was the result of multisectoral and multi-stakeholder cooperation, with one adding that voluntary commitments on the part of industry had been key to the elimination of lead paint in his country.

105. The representative of IPEN introduced a conference-room paper containing a draft resolution on lead in paint that, among other things, commended the progress made by the Global Alliance; supported the introduction in all countries of legally-binding laws, regulations, standards and procedures for controlling the production, import, sale and use of lead paints by 2020 as a Strategic Approach risk reduction goal; and encouraged national focal points to initiate multi-stakeholder discussions at the country level to promote that goal, backed by effective compliance monitoring and enforcement.

106. Two representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the draft resolution; another described it as a useful starting point for further discussions; and a fourth suggested that it be incorporated into the proposed omnibus resolution on the emerging issues under consideration.

107. The Conference decided that the contact group established to consider emerging policy issues and other issues of concern would further discuss lead in paint, with the aim of preparing a draft resolution for inclusion in a draft omnibus resolution on emerging policy issues for consideration by the Conference, basing its work on the draft resolution in the conference room paper submitted by IPEN. The group would also consider a conference room paper submitted by Canada, Japan, Norway, Uruguay and the United States proposing amendments to the draft resolution submitted by IPEN.

108. Following the work of the contact group the Conference adopted resolution IV/2, an omnibus resolution on emerging policy issues, including lead in paint (see annex I).

**(b) Chemicals in products**

109. Introducing the discussion at the request of the President, the representative of UNEP drew attention to a proposed chemicals in products programme (see SAICM/ICCM.4/10), which had been developed pursuant to resolution III/2 C to facilitate access to relevant information on chemicals in

products for all stakeholder groups and was being piloted in the textiles sector in China. He also drew attention to the related draft resolution set out in the same document, and to the guidance for implementation of the programme contained in document SAICM/ICCM.4/11, which was adaptable to the specific business models and chemicals issues relevant to the products of individual sectors. Both documents, he said, had been prepared with significant inputs from stakeholders.

110. In the ensuing discussion, general appreciation and support were expressed for the proposed programme and guidance prepared by UNEP which, according to one representative, could be instrumental in helping developed and developing countries alike to achieve the 2020 goal as the world moved towards a circular economy. Some representatives said that the success of the programme would depend on its flexibility and adaptability across sectors, as well as the capacity to recognize and learn from other information management initiatives. One representative said that the programme should be a bottom-up initiative focusing on the needs of participants in developing countries and that its inclusiveness could be ensured by assigning programme management to the Strategic Approach. Together with another representative, he said that there was no need to establish a separate secretariat. One representative, however, endorsed the proposal, saying that it would be crucial to ensuring financial support for programme implementation in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Another representative said that the resolution should emphasize the inclusive nature of the programme and make clear that the guidance document was a tool rather than a requirement for participation in the programme. Another representative said that the resolution should also identify production, recycling and disposal facility workers as a key stakeholder group affected by chemicals and in need of full disclosure of information on those chemicals, and that it should urge countries to continue developing national legislation and ensure enforcement, monitoring and control.

111. Several representatives highlighted the question of information disclosure as a key concern, with some calling for companies to be compelled to identify and disclose information on chemicals of concern in their products based on hazard characteristics, and one adding that disclosure requirements in developing countries should be no different than in developed countries. Another representative, on the other hand, said that some proprietary information would have to be safeguarded.

112. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the guidance was likely to need further development based on experience gained; others highlighted examples of clearing-house and repository initiatives being developed in their countries. One representative suggested that in the resolution to be adopted the Conference should take note of, rather than adopt, the programme. Several representatives said that they were ready to discuss the draft resolution further in a contact group.

113. The Conference decided that the contact group established to consider emerging policy issues and other issues of concern would further discuss chemicals in products, with the aim of preparing a draft resolution for inclusion in a draft omnibus resolution on emerging policy issues for consideration by the Conference, basing its work on the draft resolution in document SAICM/ICCM.4/10.

114. Following the work of the contact group the Conference adopted resolution IV/2, an omnibus resolution on emerging policy issues, including chemicals in products (see annex I).

**(c) Hazardous substances within the life-cycle of electrical and electronic products**

115. At the request of the President the representative of UNIDO, speaking on behalf of IOMC, outlined the history of the inclusion of hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products among the list of emerging policy issues and reported on progress on the subject, outlining the information set out in a UNIDO report (SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/18), which contained a proposed workplan for the period 2016–2020. Due to the cross-cutting nature of the issue, and the huge and increasing amount of e-waste being generated, it was important to deal with the matter in a collaborative manner, and indeed many instruments and organizations were involved in developing and implementing measures to combat the problem of e-waste, including the Basel, Stockholm and Minamata conventions and many United Nations organizations including UNEP, whose Global Waste Management Outlook 2015 highlighted e-waste as a major global challenge.

116. The representative of the International Labour Organization outlined the Organization's activities with regard e-waste, saying that e-waste and exposure to hazardous substances was one of the Organization's main programme areas. The representative of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions did likewise, noting that e-waste was of particular concern to the Basel Convention, which had in May 2015 adopted on an interim basis draft technical guidelines on transboundary movements of e-waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention. In addition, the Conference of

the Parties to the Basel Convention had, at its twelfth meeting, extended the mandate of the Convention's Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment to 2017.

117. A representative speaking on behalf of African States introduced a conference room paper containing a draft resolution on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, which called for a range of actions by all stakeholders aimed at maximizing risk reduction by minimizing the use of hazardous substances in production processes and raising awareness. The matter, he said, was of critical importance to Africa, due to the large inflow of e-waste to the continent and the crude recycling methods employed, which posed risks to human health and the environment. The current focus was on downstream issues, but greater attention needed to be paid to risk reduction with parallel activities upstream. He drew attention to document SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/18, which contained information on a number of gaps and shortcomings, including in the areas of legislation, extended producer responsibility, take-back schemes, green design and procurement, minimization of the use of hazardous substances, worker protection and transparency.

118. In the ensuing discussion one representative expressed support for the draft resolution. A number of representatives expressed support for an integrated approach to dealing with hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, including under the relevant section of the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach. Several representatives said that developing countries and countries with economies in transition required technical and financial assistance to deal with the complex issue of e-waste. One representative highlighted exchange of information and best practices on e-waste, including through regional databases, as a means of helping countries build the essential knowledge and expertise needed to cope with the challenges posed by e-waste. Some representatives described initiatives already being undertaken in their countries to deal with e-waste, including through policy and strategy development, involvement of industry, legislation and regulation and strengthening of management systems.

119. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the objective in the proposed workplan to place greater emphasis on upstream activities such as reducing the use of hazardous substances in production. He also highlighted the close link to the proposed chemicals in products programme of UNEP, which would enable information exchange on the presence of hazardous chemicals in electronic products, and he encouraged WHO to strengthen the involvement of the health sector in order to create broad awareness of the topic and to ensure that strategies were developed at the national and international levels aiming to prevent children's exposure to e-waste.

120. One representative highlighted the particular problems faced by small island developing States with regard to safe disposal of e-waste in the downstream phase of the life cycle, urging that the matter be included in any draft resolution on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products.

121. One representative said that, given the limited time to discuss the issue at the current session, a possible way forward was to submit the proposed workplan developed by UNIDO and others to all interested Strategic Approach stakeholders after the conclusion of the meeting for revision, finalization and implementation.

122. The Conference decided that the contact group established to consider emerging policy issues and other issues of concern would further discuss hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, with the aim of preparing a draft resolution for inclusion in a draft omnibus resolution on emerging policy issues for consideration by the Conference, basing its work on the draft resolution in the conference room paper submitted by African States.

123. Following the work of the contact group the Conference adopted resolution IV/2, an omnibus resolution on emerging policy issues, including hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (see annex I).

**(d) Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials**

124. Introducing the item at the request of the President, the representative of UNITAR reported on progress with regard to nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, outlining the information in a report prepared by UNITAR and OECD (SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/19). Between April and September 2015 UNITAR, in collaboration with OECD and with support from the Government of Switzerland, had coordinated three regional workshops on nanosafety in the African, Latin American and Caribbean, and Asia-Pacific regions. UNITAR was also continuing with national projects in Armenia, Jordan and Viet Nam. In addition, the organization had launched a new session of its e-learning course on nanotechnologies, and continued to disseminate its guidance document on developing national nanotechnology policies and programmes, as outlined in document SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/19.

125. The representative of Thailand presented a conference room paper containing a draft resolution on sound management of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials submitted by African States, Colombia, Jordan, Switzerland, Thailand and the International POPS Elimination Network. He said that progress had been made on the emerging issue through various activities since the second session of the Conference but much remained to be done, and the Strategic Approach was the ideal forum for carrying forward work on the sound management of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials. The draft resolution contained proposals related to awareness-raising, information sharing, intersessional activities, development of guidance and training materials, and funding. The representative of the Centre for International Environmental Law, a member organization of IPEN and co-sponsor of the draft resolution, said that the draft resolution proposed practical ways to scale up activities by building on recent regional initiatives by lead agencies, address funding shortages, and provide guidance to Strategic Approach stakeholders on technical and legal approaches to ensure the safe and sustainable development of nanotechnologies.

126. One representative reported that her country had hosted the first regional workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean on nanotechnology in June 2015. The workshop participants had identified the main nanomaterials in use in the region and developed priorities for dealing with them. There was a need to expand networks to enhance cooperation between countries and to involve academia and other stakeholders in building knowledge on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials.

127. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the guidelines on protection of workers, the work on risk assessment and on hazard classification, and the national workshops to raise awareness and coordinate stakeholders described in the UNITAR/OECD report were important contributions to ensuring the sound management of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials throughout their life cycle at the global level. He expressed support for the activities planned for the next five years, urging all stakeholders, in particular industry, to contribute to the work and calling for close collaboration with the proposed chemicals in products programme. He expressed support for the draft resolution presented by Thailand, with some amendments, but proposed that it be incorporated into an omnibus resolution on all emerging policy issues.

128. One representative said that to avoid duplication and divergence, OECD should take the lead in steering policy recommendations and facilitating information sharing for policymakers and other stakeholders with regard to nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials. She said that the chemicals industry recognized the need to address concerns about the potential risks of nanomaterials in a transparent manner, adding that evidence had shown that nanomaterials could be assessed by the same methodology as any other chemical, and that existing regulatory structures could be used for the oversight of nanomaterials. The Strategic Approach could play a key role in sharing best practices for the safe management of nanotechnology, which was poised to provide significant benefits in many areas, including environmental protection.

129. Several representatives outlined work that had been undertaken in their countries to enhance knowledge of and improve the sound management of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, including establishment of a national observatory, registry and database, and establishment of a national directorate to deal with nanotechnology matters and promote research and development.

130. The representative of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry reported on a project by the Union on the chemical speciation of anthropogenic nanoparticles, which aimed to develop a systematic method that would provide information on the toxicity, bioavailability, and environmental fate and transport of nanoparticles.

131. One representative said that the matter of nanotechnology needed to be handled carefully and transparently, given the current lack of evidence on which nanomaterials could be classed as dangerous or on the impact of regulation on the global market. Careful analysis should be undertaken of the possible impact of applying the criteria of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals to the classification of nanomaterials, and efforts should be made to ensure the active involvement of all countries active in the field of nanotechnology.

132. One representative said that more efforts should be made to meet the expectations and needs of developing countries and those with economies in transition and that care should be taken to respect the national regulatory frameworks of individual countries.

133. The Conference decided that the contact group established to consider emerging policy issues and other issues of concern would further discuss nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, with the aim of preparing a draft resolution for inclusion in a draft omnibus resolution on emerging



policy issues for consideration by the Conference, basing its work on the draft resolution in the conference room paper presented by Thailand.

134. Following the work of the contact group the Conference adopted resolution IV/2, an omnibus resolution on emerging policy issues, including nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials (see annex I).

**(e) Endocrine-disrupting chemicals**

135. At the request of the President the representative of OECD introduced a report prepared by OECD, UNEP and WHO on endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs), including planned activities up to 2020 (SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/20). He outlined some of the activities described in the report, including work by OECD to develop or update guidance, tools and methodologies for assessing and testing EDCs; the organization of awareness-raising regional workshops on EDCs; the establishment of an advisory group on environmental exposure and impact of EDCs and the development of a project to further raise awareness of EDCs by UNEP; and the organization of an expert meeting to discuss methodologies for assessing the health risk posed by EDCs and the publication by WHO of a report entitled Identification of Risks from Exposure to Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals at the Country Level. He also highlighted a 2012 report by UNEP and WHO on the state of the science of EDCs, entitled State of the Science of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals, and a related summary for policymakers.

136. A representative speaking on behalf of Bangladesh then introduced a draft resolution on EDCs contained in a conference room paper submitted by a group of Governments and non-governmental organizations. The proposed resolution reflected the concerns of the Strategic Approach regions and, among other things, invited UNEP to compile a list of EDCs and potential EDCs, based on the state of the science of EDCs report; produce reports aimed at helping regulators to identify where EDCs might be found, including in products; and conduct biomonitoring studies of EDCs in developing countries and countries with economies in transition in four United Nations regions. The proposal also sought to achieve synergies with existing work under the chemicals conventions.

137. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed appreciation to OECD, UNEP and WHO for their work on EDCs, including the release of the 2012 report on the state of the science of EDCs, which one said would help inform decision-making, and the establishment of an advisory group to help guide future action on EDCs. Another representative said that the advisory group discussions were not handling differing scientific opinions and inconclusive research results in a balanced manner and expressed the hope that UNEP would take steps to correct such deficiencies.

138. Many representatives endorsed the activities planned by the three organizations, including those regarding the development of EDC testing and assessment guidelines, which one said would help to facilitate harmonization of approaches to EDCs across sectors and regions, and studies on exposure and effects of EDCs and on early-life-stage avoidable environmental exposures to such chemicals. A number of representatives said that because EDCs involved many sectors, cooperation among all IOMC organizations and other stakeholders was essential to achieve progress. One also called for efforts to maximize synergies to ensure the most efficient use of resources.

139. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the resolutions on EDCs adopted by three Strategic Approach regions showed that there was a need for further action to develop and share information on EDCs, including through awareness-raising activities and the conduct of case studies on human and environmental exposure to EDCs. He said that recent studies highlighted the high cost of inaction on EDCs and of dealing with the negative effects of such chemicals, in particular on children.

140. Two representatives outlined efforts by their countries to deal with EDCs, which one said included the development of test protocols for fish and amphibians that had been published by OECD and would be used to assess chemicals and hopefully pave the way for improved understanding of EDCs.

141. One representative said that EDCs were of high concern due to the special risk that they posed to fetuses and young children, the non-linear relationship between dose and response, and evidence that there were no safe exposure levels for some EDCs. Another suggested that there was a need to consider safer alternatives for EDCs whose presence in consumer products had been identified and whose negative effects had been established. One representative said that there was a need for additional scientific research on EDCs before action could be taken, particularly in South East Asia, and for building the capacity of developing countries to conduct such research. Another said that while his country was concerned about the possible environmental and health effects of EDCs, any decision

by the Conference must respect multilateral World Trade Organization agreements, stating that banning EDCs on the basis of their potential danger rather than on solid scientific evidence would not be consistent with such agreements.

142. Several representatives expressed support for the draft resolution presented by Bangladesh on behalf of a group of countries and non-governmental organizations, which they said would help developing countries to better understand and address the issue of EDCs. One said that national authorities would benefit from a list of EDCs, especially those found in consumer products, evidence-based research, and dissemination of information on EDC initiatives, especially those regarding risk reduction and alternatives to EDCs in the health sector. Another suggested that UNEP be requested to produce a list of institutions dealing with endocrinology research to facilitate the creation of long-term collaboration on EDCs and enable Governments to invite such institutions to conduct research. He also suggested that UNEP be invited to prepare an interim report on progress in the biomonitoring of EDCs.

143. Two representatives said that the draft resolution was consistent with the state of the science of EDCs. Saying that the cost of inaction on EDCs had been estimated at 157 billion Euros per year in Europe alone, they drew attention to a recent study by the Endocrine Society that collected evidence from hundreds of peer-reviewed studies showing the negative health effects of EDCs, including their contribution to chronic disease burdens, and to a new scientific statement on EDCs issued by the Society in 2015.

144. Another representative said that Strategic Approach activities on EDCs should focus on information sharing and called for the adoption of weight-of-evidence-, risk- and evidence-based approaches to identifying and managing risks from EDCs, on which scientific understanding had improved thanks to the work of various stakeholders. He argued against the development of lists of known or suspected EDCs that were not based on clear scientific evidence or regulatory reviews. Industry, he said, would continue to work on EDCs, including through participation in the UNEP advisory group on EDCs. Another representative said that weight-of-evidence- and risk-based approaches were contrary to the precautionary approach and hazard-based approaches, suggesting that risk assessments conducted by industry were not neutral and must be scrutinized to ensure that they served the interests of human health and the environment.

145. The representative of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions secretariat, noting that the Stockholm Convention covered a number of EDCs, including PCBs and DDT, said that the secretariat valued the work on EDCs under the Strategic Approach and would continue to address EDC issues with the involvement of all stakeholders.

146. The Conference decided that the contact group established to consider emerging policy issues and other issues of concern would further discuss EDCs, with the aim of preparing a draft resolution for inclusion in a draft omnibus resolution on emerging policy issues for consideration by the Conference, basing its work on the draft resolution in the conference room paper presented by Bangladesh on behalf of a group of countries and non-governmental organizations.

147. Following the work of the contact group the Conference adopted resolution IV/2, an omnibus resolution on emerging policy issues, including endocrine disrupting chemicals (see annex I).

#### **4. Other issues of concern: perfluorinated chemicals**

148. The representative of the secretariat introduced a note by the secretariat on progress on existing emerging policy issues and other issues of concern (SAICM/ICCM.4/9), which included an update on perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs), and an information document containing an update on managing PFCs and the transition to safer alternatives, prepared by OECD and UNEP (SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/21).

149. The representative of OECD outlined activities by the OECD/UNEP Global PFC Group described in the information document, including the production of a synthesis report on PFCs and the dissemination of report results through four webinars; an analysis of risk reduction measures for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs), whose production had largely shifted from Japan, the United States and Western Europe to emerging economies in continental Asia, where efforts were needed to reduce such production; and the development of a workplan to further facilitate the exchange of information on PFASs and support a global transition to safer alternatives.

150. Several representatives welcomed the progress achieved by the OECD/UNEP Global PFC Group. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the Group's work was of tremendous importance because PFCs were extremely persistent and, with the exception of one group of PFCs listed in the Stockholm Convention, were not covered by multilateral agreements.

Several representatives expressed support for efforts to switch to safer alternatives, but one said that actions under the Strategic Approach must respect the rules of the World Trade Organization.

151. Regarding the proposed workplan for the Global PFC Group, two representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, called for greater emphasis on assessing the hazardous properties of short-chained PFCs, which one said should not be seen as safer alternatives to long-chained PFCs. He further suggested that the Group focus on the feasibility of using non-fluorinated alternatives to PFCs and work with industry to ensure that business confidentiality did not trump the public's right to know the chemical composition of consumer products. One representative called for a more aggressive workplan for the Global PFC Group in support of the 2020 goal, in particular with regard to short-chained PFCs, the provision of support to countries in their efforts to find suitable alternatives to PFCs, and the need for greater transparency regarding chemicals throughout their life cycles. She also urged industry to take proactive steps to phase out all PFCs.

152. The representative of the European Union reported that the European Union had in May 2015 submitted a proposal for the listing of pentadecafluorooctanoic acid, its salts and related compounds in Annex A to the Stockholm Convention. He also encouraged all stakeholders, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition and industry stakeholders at different stages of the PFC value chain, to participate in the work of the Global PFC Group.

153. The representative of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions said that perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride were listed in Annex B to the Stockholm Convention, under which the continued need for such substances was evaluated every four years based on, among other things, the availability of suitable alternatives. The Secretariat participated actively in the work of the Global PFC Group, exchanging information on alternatives.

154. The President thanked all those who spoke, acknowledged the importance of the perfluorinated chemicals in the context of the Strategic Approach and encouraged all stakeholders to take appropriate action at all levels.

## **VI. Sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (agenda item 6)**

155. Introducing the item, the Vice-President<sup>3</sup> noted the linkage between the Strategic Approach and the new Sustainable Development Goals, which provided an opportunity for fostering collaborative approaches and actions across stakeholders and sectors towards the sound management of chemicals and waste consistent with the Strategic Approach platform. The representative of the secretariat recalled that the goal that, by 2020, chemicals would be used and produced in ways that led to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment had first been adopted by Governments at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. The 2020 goal had then been adopted in 2006 by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its first session as an important aim of the Strategic Approach. Without diminishing the significance of the 2020 goal Governments and other stakeholders subsequently recognized, including United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5, on chemicals and wastes, the continuing importance of sound chemicals management beyond 2020. At its second meeting, in December 2014, the Open-ended Working Group decided that strengthening chemicals and waste management beyond 2020 should be on the agenda of the fourth session of the Conference. It also decided that resolution 1/5 could be used as a basis for further work in the area. He then introduced the documents relevant to the agenda item. (SAICM/ICCM.4/13 and SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/22, INF/30 and INF/31).

156. The representative of Ghana introduced a draft resolution submitted by a group of countries on the Strategic Approach beyond 2020, which included terms of reference for the assessment of the Strategic Approach. The proposal outlined an intersessional process for developing options for follow-up to the Strategic Approach, including an independent assessment of the Strategic Approach and establishment of an intersessional working group. It also requested the Open-ended Working Group to consider, in 2018, the results of the independent assessment and the options put forward by the intersessional working group and to make proposals concerning the future of the Strategic Approach for consideration by the Conference at its fifth meeting, in 2020.

157. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives stressed the importance of continuing the work currently undertaken under the Strategic Approach in the years beyond 2020, with several citing the guidance provided by the United Nations Environment Assembly in its resolution 1/5 as a good basis

<sup>3</sup> At the request of the President, Mr. Lenev presided over the meeting that took place on the afternoon of Tuesday, 29 September.

for doing so. The value of the Strategic Approach to developing countries and countries with economies in transition was stressed by several representatives given the difficulties faced by those countries in addressing toxic chemical sources not covered by existing conventions and the fact that chemical production and use were increasing there. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that any future framework must be established on the basis of the strong voluntary commitment of all stakeholders, with one adding that such commitment was vital to facilitating ownership of the post-2020 framework.

158. There was general support for the proposal for an independent assessment of the Strategic Approach and the establishment of an intersessional working group, with one representative adding that intersessional work would be very useful for the development of effective actions and the ongoing provision of reviews, guidance and progress reports relating to achievement of the 2020 goal. Representatives also said that intersessional work and any future framework for the work beyond 2020 should be open and inclusive, targeted, cost-efficient, multi-stakeholder and multisectoral, taking into account the outcome document of the country-led consultative process on enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and waste cluster; the overall orientation and guidance document and the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and related chemicals and waste targets. One representative said that while the Strategic Approach had focused on enabling activities, the focus beyond 2020 should be on using countries' newly developed capacities to minimize and eliminate sources of toxic exposures. It was also said that attention to emerging policy issues would be essential in the period beyond 2020, with one representative noting in particular the importance of awareness-raising, capacity-building, information-sharing and the rights of marginalized groups in that context.

159. One representative said that while the Strategic Approach had contributed much to sound chemicals management the proposed evaluation and intersessional work should inform the decision on the future of the Strategic Approach beyond 2020 rather than pre-judge it. She also said that the proposed assessment should focus on national and regional implementation of the Overarching Policy Strategy, drawing on existing documentation, including the Quick Start Programme impact evaluation. Another said that while his Government supported the regular evaluation of the Strategic Approach it was concerned that a proliferation of assessments and new structures under consideration at the current session would divert both resources and focus away from achievement of the 2020 goal. The decisions adopted at the current session should balance the work to be done by 2020 and future frameworks to address chemical safety beyond 2020 in the light of Agenda 2030.

160. One representative said that indicators recently developed for measuring the sound management of chemicals and waste might contribute to the discussions and that the concept of sustainable and green chemistry could be of interest to developing countries. Several representatives called for the use of measurable targets, with one saying that they should also be time-bound and compatible with the new Sustainable Development Goals and that thought should be given to developing sustainable chemistry goals. Another added that future aims and activities in the field of chemicals management should be science-based and suggested that experiences and best practices be exchanged in the area of green chemistry; priority should also be accorded to effective regulatory approaches at the national level.

161. One representative suggested that two intersessional meetings be held back-to-back with the second and third sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly, in 2016 and 2018, respectively, and that the outcomes of those sessions be considered at the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the fifth session of the Conference.

162. One representative said that the evaluation should identify gaps, strengths and weaknesses, align health and environment priorities; clarify the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in key organizations with a view to improving effectiveness and cohesiveness; gather information through interviews and case studies; and appraise value-for-money. She also proposed that an interim evaluation be undertaken to support discussion of gaps, strengths and weaknesses in the short term while a full evaluation was under way. One representative said that a valid evaluation would require reporting by all stakeholders.

163. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that additional financing, capacity-building and technology transfer were essential to achievement of the 2020 goal and to action beyond 2020 in developing countries, with one suggesting specifically that funding should be available for large and medium-sized projects in cities with one million or more inhabitants, as well as for institution strengthening.

164. Following the discussion the Conference agreed to establish a contact group, chaired by Mr. David Kapindula (Zambia) and Mr. Niko Urho (Finland), to develop an intersessional process for

considering the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 and to identify information needed to support such a process. It was also agreed that the contact group would make links to the Sustainable Development Goals, as relevant, and would use the draft resolution presented by Ghana on behalf of a group of countries and other relevant documents as the basis of its work.

165. Following the work of the contact group the Conference adopted resolution IV/4, on the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (see annex I).

## **VII. Activities of the secretariat and budget (agenda item 7)**

### **A. Proposed budget of the secretariat**

166. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to document SAICM/ICCM.4/14, which contained a report on activities of the secretariat for the period from January 2012 to June 2015 and a list of proposed activities for the period 2016–2020, in addition to a proposed indicative budget for the period 2016–2018, as requested in resolution III/5, and for the period 2019–2020, as requested by the Bureau. The proposed budgets were guided by the functions to be performed by the secretariat, as provided for in paragraph 28 of the Overarching Policy Strategy and in relevant subsequent resolutions, and were based on zero nominal growth compared with the current budget. He drew attention to the secretariat staffing and support measures called for in United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste (see SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/22), and noted with appreciation the donor contributions made in support of such measures.

167. In the ensuing discussion, gratitude was expressed to all stakeholders who had made financial and in-kind contributions in support of the Strategic Approach, which was an indication of the widespread ownership of the Strategic Approach. Several expressions of continuing commitment to the provision of support were made. One representative asked for an explanation of how contributions by industry were used, in the interest of avoiding duplication and increasing efficiency. One representative noted that industry contributed to sound chemicals management not only through direct financial contributions to the Strategic Approach but also through taxes, fees and other measures. He voiced support for the outcomes of the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and waste, adding that contributions aimed at promoting the safe manufacture, handling and use of chemicals could have important benefits for economic development.

168. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries and recalling that WHO had in recent years elected not to finance a secretariat post, reiterated the invitation made at the first session of the Conference asking WHO to assume a leading role by providing specialist staff, which was more important than ever in view of the new Sustainable Development Goals target of reducing deaths and illnesses from pollution. The representative of WHO, referring to the proposed functions of a WHO post detailed in table 6 of document SAICM/ICCM.4/14, said that WHO was already actively engaged in the establishment and maintenance of a network of Strategic Approach stakeholders, particularly in the health sector, and promoting engagement of the health sector in the Strategic Approach, through work described in several of the information documents for the current session, and was best placed to do so from the WHO headquarters and regional and country offices. WHO also devoted substantial resources to the exchange of relevant scientific and technical information from the health sector), which was its daily business. The establishment and maintenance of a working relationship with participating organizations of IOMC in order to draw upon their sectoral expertise, particularly with those involved with health-based activities), was already complete as WHO was an IOMC Participating Organization. WHO was, however, less able to contribute to the provision of general support to the Strategic Approach secretariat and to support the development of meeting documents, but had administered the online Strategic Approach reporting process and would continue to do what it could, within its resources, welcoming any donor support offered.

169. One representative expressed support for the adoption of a zero nominal growth indicative budget for the two periods and another, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, endorsed the proposed budget prepared by the secretariat as a basis for further discussion, during which the resources required for overall orientation and guidance activities and activities beyond 2020 should be considered. He supported the reinstatement of financing for the proposed Programme Officer on Knowledge Management and for the upgrading of one secretariat Programme Officer post from P-2 to P-3 to reflect a considerable need for policy analysis capacity in the secretariat. He also said that the budget resolution should include the agreed figures and staffing tables.

170. Another representative expressed concern that secretariat staffing levels were below those authorized in the current indicative budget, particularly in view of the Strategic Approach's critical

contribution to the chemicals and waste agenda in the run-up to 2020. One representative asked for information on the work of secretariat staff, notably the proposed Knowledge Management Programme Officer, as well as work proposed to be undertaken by consultants. Activities, she added, should not be limited to those aimed at enhancing industry engagement. One representative requested further information concerning proposed upgrades and reductions with respect to certain posts, adding that an interim budget report should be presented to the Open-ended Working Group at its third meeting and that the Open-ended Working Group should be mandated to approve any budgetary adjustments needed prior to the fifth session of the Conference.

171. Following the discussion, the Conference decided to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Mr. Mitsugu Saito (Japan) and Ms. Roxanne Blesam (Palau), to agree on a proposed programme of work and budget for the Strategic Approach secretariat for the periods 2016–2018 and 2019–2020.

172. Following the work of the contact group the Conference adopted resolution IV/5, on activities of the secretariat and budget (see annex I).

## **B. Quick Start Programme of the Trust Fund**

173. Introducing the item, the President drew attention to document SAICM/ICCM.4/14, which contained the proposal by the secretariat for the full and final closure of the Quick Start Trust Fund on 31 July 2019.

174. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed satisfaction that the Quick Start Programme had served its purpose of kick-starting the implementation of the Strategic Approach. Support needed to shift from institution strengthening to support for the collaborative implementation of the Strategic Approach and the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata conventions. He therefore expressed strong support for the special programme on institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach, noting that special programme projects allowed for civil society participation. He also proposed that the decision on the date for the final closure of the Quick Start Programme trust fund be delegated to the Programme's Executive Board so that the decision could take into account the most up-to-date information. Another representative said that her country could support the date for final closure of the Trust Fund proposed by the secretariat – 31 July 2019 – provided that no earlier date was practicable.

175. The representative of India presented a draft resolution on the establishment of a robust financial mechanism for achieving the stated goals of the Strategic Approach.

176. The Conference decided that the proposal concerning the date for final closure of the Trust Fund should be taken up by the contact group established to agree on a proposed programme of work and budget and that the draft resolution presented by India should be taken up by the contact group on overall orientation and guidance.

177. Following the work of the contact group the Conference adopted resolution IV/5, on activities of the secretariat and budget (see annex I).

## **VIII. Venue and date of the fifth session of the Conference (agenda item 8)**

178. Introducing the item, the President recalled that in accordance with paragraph 25 of the Overarching Policy Strategy the fifth session of the Conference was to be held in 2020 and, where appropriate, back-to-back with meetings of the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations. The Conference, he suggested, might wish to invite offers from Governments to host its fifth session, as well as offers from relevant intergovernmental bodies wishing to hold a meeting back to back with that session, which should be submitted by 1 January 2019. It might also wish to authorize the Bureau to decide on the date and venue of the fifth session. In the meantime the secretariat had tentatively arranged for the session to be held at the Centre International de Conférences de Genève in Geneva from 23 to 27 March 2020, subject to change in the event that a suitable offer to host the session was received.

179. A representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries said that any venue for the fifth session of the Conference would be open to consideration, provided that it did not have any unacceptable cost implications. He suggested that if practicable the session be held back to back with the World Health Assembly.

## IX. High-level segment

180. As noted in section II C, above, on organization of work, a high-level segment was held on the afternoon of Thursday, 1 October 2015, and the morning of Friday, 2 October 2015, with the aim of inspiring broader participation and engagement in the Strategic Approach, recognizing the need to address the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, with an emphasis on linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals and opportunities arising from their implementation, as well as on the urgency of acting immediately for environmental, health and economic reasons.

181. The high-level segment was opened by Mr. Timothy Kasten, Deputy Director, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, UNEP, who acted as master of ceremonies. Opening remarks were made by Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, in a statement read on his behalf by Mr. Kasten,<sup>4</sup> and by Mr. Richard Lesiyampe, President of the Conference. Keynote speeches were then delivered by Ms. Victoria Tauli Corpuz, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and Mr. Michel Giannuzzi, Chief Executive Officer of Tarkett, a manufacturer of flooring and sports surfaces.

182. The keynote speeches were followed by three separate and simultaneous moderated interactive panel dialogues on multisectoral collaboration for more efficient chemicals management; multi-stakeholder collaboration for sustainable development; and the Strategic Approach model in action. Each interactive panel dialogue featured opening statements by the panelists, dialogue between the moderator and the panelists, interactive discussion between the panel and the participants, take home messages by the panelists and closure by the moderator.

183. The moderators for the three interactive panel dialogues were, respectively, Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; Ms. Sally Fegan-Wyles, former Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Research and Training; and Dr. Maria Neira, Director, Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health, World Health Organization. The members of the first panel were Mr. Robert Pickersgill, Minister of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change, Jamaica; Ms. Leticia Carvalho, Director, Ministry of the Environment, Brazil; Mr. Howard Minigh, President and CEO of CropLife International; Dr. Leonardo Trasande, Associate Professor in Pediatrics, Environmental Medicine and Population Health, New York University School of Medicine; and Ms. Génon Jensen, Executive Director Health and Environment Alliance. The members of the second panel were Mr. Lesiyampe, in his capacity as Principal Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Kenya; Ms. Gunvor Ericson, Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment, Sweden; Mr. Daniel Calleja, Director General, Directorate General Environment, European Commission and Mr. Hubert Mandery, Director General, European Chemical Industry Council. The members of the third panel were Ms. Barbara Hendricks, Minister of Environment, Germany; Ms. Christine Dawson, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment, United States Department of State; Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme; Mr. Fleetwood Grobler, Executive Vice President, Sasol; Ms. Susan Wilburn, Sustainability Director, Health Care without Harm; and Mr. Tadesse Amera, IPEN/Pesticide Action Nexus Association, Ethiopia.

184. On Friday morning the high-level segment continued with a keynote speech by Mr. Boyan Slat, Chief Executive Officer of The Ocean Cleanup, an initiative to rid the seas of marine debris; summaries of the previous day's interactive dialogues presented by their moderators; and a moderated panel discussion. Following the plenary panel discussion ministers and other high-level participants were given the opportunity to make statements and the high-level segment was then closed by the President.

### A. Opening of the high-level segment and keynote speeches

185. In his opening remarks for the high-level segment the President said that the growth of the Strategic Approach over the 10 years of its existence was encouraging and that the capacities were in place for joint action to find and implement solutions to the many current challenges. The Strategic Approach Quick Start Programme had supported projects in more than 100 developing countries and countries with economies in transition and the Strategic Approach had fostered networks and cooperation among many and diverse sectors and stakeholders. The remaining work to be done by 2020 was all the more daunting in the light of the 17 new Sustainable Development Goals covering such critical areas as human health, food, water and sanitation, as without sound chemicals management attainment of those goals and indeed life itself were in jeopardy.

<sup>4</sup> See annex II to the present report.

186. Bridging sectors and stakeholders and working across all agricultural and industrial products throughout their life cycles, the Strategic Approach was unique. The fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, in particular its high-level segment, thus provided a valuable opportunity for exchanging experiences, sharing lessons, discussing initiatives and starting partnerships of equals in common cause. It was also an occasion for renewing the commitment to a chemical-safe future for health, environment and economic growth through the strengthening of the Strategic Approach.

187. Chemical production and use were increasing fastest in developing countries, posing increasing risks, and despite significant progress differences persisted between countries at different stages of development. The success of the Strategic Approach in tackling policy issues, grappling with emerging and other issues of concern and taking decisive steps for guiding implementation of sound management of chemicals by 2020 would hinge on collaboration across all sectors and stakeholders. He looked forward, therefore, to a consolidation and expansion of efforts in a unified direction towards 2020 and formally declared the high-level segment open.

188. In her keynote speech Ms. Corpuz outlined various ways in which chemical pollution resulting from activities such as mining, nuclear testing, forestry, industrial agriculture and the dumping of hazardous materials such as electrical and electronic waste violated the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples, including the rights to life, health and development, and their very survival as distinct communities through the degradation of ecosystems in their lands and territories, to which they were deeply connected. The right of indigenous peoples to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands and resources was explicitly reflected in Article 29 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which was of particular relevance to the Strategic Approach.

189. Indigenous people had their own approaches, from avoiding the use of chemicals to employing traditional knowledge to restore contaminated water and land and to fertilize without polluting. In cases where pollution occurred for reasons beyond their control, however, global support and widespread collaboration among stakeholders was needed, and for that reason she expressed support for the increased involvement of indigenous peoples in the Strategic Approach, which offered a unique platform for collaboration among all stakeholders to deal with chemicals in a systematic manner, extending to chemicals with global impact not covered by existing conventions.

190. Asserting that dialogue was the best way to deal with hazardous chemicals, she encouraged civil society organizations to work closely with Governments and industry to ensure that the most vulnerable and marginalized communities were protected from toxic chemicals through implementation of the precautionary and polluter pays principles, among others. She also appealed to developed countries to provide additional contributions for the implementation of the Strategic Approach in support of its objectives.

191. In his keynote speech Mr. Giannuzzi argued that there was a good business case for the sound management of chemicals. It was, he said, an exciting time to be a business leader, with innovation and creativity being applied to major challenges. One of those challenges was the impact of products on the planet and on people's health and well-being, which meant that the development of safe chemicals was high on the agenda of manufacturers worldwide and a key concern for consumers. Given his concerns about the environmental impacts of the vinyl flooring materials being manufactured by his company, he started to collaborate with Mr. Michael Braungart, a pioneer of closed-loop recycling and cradle-to-cradle design, and developed ways to drastically reduce the emissions of volatile organic compounds from the company's polyvinyl chloride (PVC) products and to eliminate phthalates used in vinyl flooring. In addition, in the spirit of open innovation, the company had not asked for exclusivity from its supplier, allowing other manufacturers in the industry to phase out their own use of phthalates and encouraging retailers to phase out phthalate flooring from their stores. In 2013 his company had stepped up its engagement with the circular economy in partnership with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, and started using waste from other industries as raw materials for flooring.

192. Regarding the costs and benefits of a commitment to eco-design, he said that while additional costs were involved, for example during the substitution of phthalates, there were also savings through reducing energy and water consumption. Although not financially quantifiable, there was also a significant boost to employee engagement and pride, attributable in part to the company's clear explanation that its sustainability strategy would contribute to ameliorating resource scarcity, climate change and urbanization challenges. The growth in world population meant that the world economy could not continue to grow without finding new ways to reuse resources and identifying means of satisfying the needs of the increasing urban population. While Governments and regulators were vital



in imposing stricter environmental and health standards, industry leaders should go farther, anticipating such standards and proposing proactive solutions. Through eco-innovation and collaboration with suppliers, customers and employees, it was possible to develop new products that had a positive impact on the environment and human health. To conclude, he said that industry leaders should leverage their innovation capabilities to ensure that they themselves shaped the future rather than wait for regulators to tell them what shape it should take.

193. In his keynote address, illustrated with a slide presentation, Mr. Slat described the genesis of and challenges to efforts to clean up the plastic in the world's oceans, enormous quantities of which were carried by the ocean's currents to concentration sites known as gyres. The plastic created wide-scale pollution that threatened many species with extinction, caused untold economic damage and radically increased through absorption the concentration of toxic chemicals, including in the human food chain. He described the long, floating booms that he had devised to address the problem: anchored to the seabed and positioned in a v-shaped array, they drew in and captured vast quantities of ocean plastic, which could then be extracted from the water for storage and eventual shipment to land for recycling. A feasibility study conducted by the organization he had founded, The Ocean Cleanup, had shown that a single 100-kilometre-long array deployed over 10 years could enable the cleanup of one half of the largest gyre, known as the Great Pacific garbage patch; to clean the same area by traditional means would by contrast take approximately 39,000 years. Furthermore, ocean plastic could be recycled into high-quality products.

194. The method for the execution of his vision within four years was now being developed and refined through scale-model testing. Involving the largest floating structure ever deployed on the ocean, the first pilot was scheduled to take place in 2016 off the Japanese island of Tushima, which had been selected on account of the large volume of garbage that regularly washed up on its shores. The Japanese Government, moreover, planned to convert the captured plastic into energy for powering the entire island. The largest-ever ocean research expedition was also being mounted across the Great Pacific garbage patch to collect measurements to provide more reliable estimates than currently available of the amount of plastic in the oceans, information on which was essential for costing purposes. Known as the Mega Expedition, its progress could be tracked on The Ocean Cleanup website.

## **B. Moderators' summaries of the simultaneous interactive panel dialogues**

195. Summarizing the interactive panel discussion on multisectoral collaboration for more efficient chemicals management, the moderator of that dialogue said that panellists had agreed that there was a need for significant health-sector involvement in the development of inter-agency policies and programmes for chemicals management. The first key message identified was that collaboration, cooperation and continuity were essential to achieving the 2020 goal, in particular by broadening the participation of additional sectors and addressing strong interlinkages among sectors. The second was that there was a need for closer collaboration between health and environmental actors aimed at tackling the high risk of exposure to hazardous chemicals in developing countries lacking in capacities, where, panellists also said, environmental risks and associated health effects should be framed through public lenses. The third focused on the socioeconomic benefits of a proactive approach to sound chemicals and waste management by both Governments and the private sector. Panellists recommended the adoption of innovative approaches and solutions in such areas as health risk assessment and financing. He asked participants in the plenary panel for tried and tested examples of innovative approaches to collaboration on efficient chemicals management between different sectors.

196. In her summary of the interactive panel dialogue on multi-stakeholder collaboration for sustainable development, the moderator of that dialogue said that the examples of successful regional and national cooperation partnerships and platforms cited during the discussion had clearly demonstrated the vital contribution of all stakeholders to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2020 goal. The overall view was that those partnerships contributed substantially to sound chemicals and waste management and could even overcome the challenges entailed if it was further enhanced. It was also agreed that, using the circular economy approach, partners could combine conducive regulatory frameworks and innovation in chemicals research and development with meaningful engagement of civil society to turn potential conflicts of interest into win-win situations, which called for inspired leadership and vision. Matters raised included technology transfer to developing countries; the importance of good regulatory frameworks; risk prevention and rapid risk response; information and knowledge sharing; appropriate progress indicators; sustainable communities; and well-supported partnership processes. The key message was that the Strategic Approach stood as a unique platform that should be continued, with its goals forming part of the agenda for 2030 and even beyond.

197. Regarding the interactive panel dialogue on the Strategic Approach model in action, the moderator of that dialogue said that panellists had provided examples of key success factors and enabling conditions for effective partnerships to achieve the 2020 goal and to build on successes to date. Those examples included the establishment of a new sustainable chemistry platform, the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, and various initiatives for green health-care, e-waste, end-of-life electronic equipment and industry-led life-cycle management of chemicals. The take-away messages had centred around the part played by the Strategic Approach in bringing together the necessary actors and ingredients for addressing emerging policy issues, among others, and in promoting coherent and cohesive approaches to chemicals management leading towards a paradigm of more sustainable chemistry. The voluntary nature and flexibility of the Strategic Approach were also emphasized, notably in the context of addressing those issues and in fostering more innovative partnerships. Further emphasized was the fact that a contribution to health and well-being was intimately connected with the environment and that ensuring sound chemicals management was a necessary investment in health. Lastly, panellists had agreed that, notwithstanding its positive results to date, there was always room for improvement of the Strategic Approach.

### C. Plenary panel discussion

198. The moderator of the plenary panel discussion, Mr. Christian Friis Bach, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, introduced the members of the panel: Mr. Carlos Salinas de Gortari, former President of Mexico and Commissioner for the Global Commission on Pollution, Health and Development; Ms. Barbara Thompson, Deputy Minister, Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa; Ms. Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility (GEF); Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director, UNEP; Mr. You Xiaoping, Chairperson, Huaifon Group; Mr. Cal Dooley, Secretary General, International Council of Chemical Associations; and Mr. Manny Calonz, Co-Chair, IPEN.

199. Introducing the plenary panel discussion, he underscored both the innovative opportunities and the serious risks associated with chemicals, saying that stakeholders in the Strategic Approach were well equipped to take the committed action needed for sound chemicals management, including through the implementation of relevant existing instruments and the relevant components of the ambitious new Sustainable Development Goals. He then asked each panelist in turn to speak from the perspective of his or her organization on the topic of "a shared vision for a chemical-safe world", posing a specific question to each. A question from the floor was then followed by "take-home messages" by the panellists and concluding remarks by the moderator.

200. Speaking about the Mexican experience in addressing chemicals management, Mr. Salinas de Gortari said that the pollution problem highlighted some decades earlier by children's drawings of the skies over Mexico City had prompted a decision to close down a main urban oil refinery, which had produced the desired improvement in the local environment. More recently, initiatives had been introduced in partnership with civil society to prevent toxic contamination and related health problems in indigenous communities by promoting the use of new non-leaded glazes in pottery production. Those, he said, were two concrete examples of how tragedy could be averted through decisive action in the area of chemicals management.

201. Concerning the Strategic Approach and collaborative efforts by the South African Government in the area of chemicals management, Ms. Thompson first underscored the need for swift universal action to avoid the high cost that would otherwise result. Economic performance and development were compromised in countries where, among other things, disproportionate resources were diverted to the health sector to deal with the effects of toxic chemicals. Efforts were therefore needed to address existing gaps and differences among regions and countries, including through the development of uniform approaches. The allocation of Strategic Approach funding to promote chemicals management would be advantageous for developing countries, as would monitoring for improvement purposes and the profiling of chemicals with regard to their cross-border movement, quantities, uses and associated risks. In South Africa, chemicals management was a multi-stakeholder endeavour and included industry investment in government projects. Considerable attention had also been devoted for some time already to environmental protection and recycling, which had in turn promoted job creation. A dedicated chemicals management law was being prepared and lobbying was under way for the allocation of funding to chemicals management as a priority issue.

202. Ms. Ishii, asked how the Global Environment Facility (GEF) viewed the financing of chemicals and waste management, said that the Facility was embedding a comprehensive and holistic multi-stakeholder approach into its chemicals and waste portfolio, as seen in its work with, inter alia, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, a chemicals-in-products project in China and on-the-ground green chemistry initiatives in Latin America, where securing private sector support was key. Current

areas of interest included achieving sustainable consumption and production through greening the agricultural commodities supply chain; integrating waste management, including marine debris, into sustainable city projects; and enhancing food security in Africa by promoting healthy soil in a multi-stakeholder partnership with seed and fertilizer producers, among others. The Facility had high expectations of such partnerships.

203. Mr. Steiner, on the question of new commitments to move the Strategic Approach beyond 2020, stressed that the international community was ready to consider big changes to put an end to impacts such as deaths due to lead poisoning as a result of the continued production and sale of dirty fuel, often in breach of constitutional principles. Countries in East Africa had benefitted the Strategic Approach with a great commitment to phasing out dirty technology; they needed to receive financial and technical support. As the 2020 goal was embedded in the new Sustainable Development Goals the international community needed to think big and take a systematic approach. Support should also be given to innovative initiatives such as The Ocean Cleanup. Industry had to become a central player, applying its capacity for innovation to collective efforts to reinvent markets; companies, he said, would willingly comply with appropriate legislation and there should be mechanisms for putting pressure on companies not taking part. The Strategic Approach should remain the framework for accelerating progress from pilot projects to wider action that tackled the problems, issue by issue, backed by the relevant scientific information.

204. Mr. You, on the question of industry's support for sound chemicals management in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, said that as both participants and beneficiaries of the Strategic Approach, companies had a duty to focus not only on their own work but also on that of advocating for a healthy environment through sound chemicals management. He himself would continue to show the commitment to real action that had seen him support eight bills on the subject in eight consecutive years in the National People's Congress.

205. Mr. Dooley, asked how the chemicals sector viewed its responsibilities, said that the sector was proud that its efforts to address environmental health and safety issues over the previous decade had resulted in a significant reduction in accident rates and that its innovations and technologies were integral to national capacities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The chemicals sector, he said, took seriously its obligation to ensure sound chemicals management and regarded the Strategic Approach as an opportunity to meet that obligation. It had identified how best to apply Strategic Approach principles, especially that of collective efforts to promote effective policies, and it had already contributed to the 2020 goal by organizing workshops to assist developing countries in adopting best practices for emerging chemicals industries. Much remained to be done, however. Beyond 2020, he anticipated an opportunity to build on achievements and work with Governments, environmental non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to create a political and regulatory environment for sound, best practice-based chemicals management.

206. Mr. Calonzo, asked whether civil society could work with industry and use the Strategic Approach model to push for action, described how an environmental watchdog in the Philippines had applied the model to engage with other sectors and the Government, resulting in a ban on several heavy-metal-containing cosmetics and skincare products that posed a risk to women and other vulnerable groups. Risk reduction, he said, was key, and industry should play its part and remove hazardous chemicals from products. The Strategic Approach community needed to focus on concrete and measurable goals and actions to tackle unsustainable production, consumption and disposal, with the costs fairly distributed among the responsible parties and the effort backed by new sources of funding. Civil society was committed to the Strategic Approach principles and objectives and would continue to contribute to implementation through, among other things, awareness-raising and advocacy, field surveys and data generation to support policy reform and leverage the resources for meaningful change on the ground.

207. One representative, speaking from the floor, raised the question of how the Strategic Approach could contribute to a circular economy based on sound management of chemicals and waste and the decoupling of economic growth from resource use, adding that the elimination of hazardous chemicals in products was key to high quality recycling.

208. Mr. Calonzo, in his take-home message, said that civil society must have a seat at the table in an open, inclusive and transparent process for the full potential of the Strategic Approach model to be realized; that solutions developed without its participation would be inadequate; and that civil society was committed to ensuring the rights of people to health, justice and a chemical-safe future.

209. Mr. Dooley, in his take-home message, said that the chemicals sector had to continue to advance sound chemicals management and capitalize on the value-added potential of the collaborative Strategic Approach process; that modernizing the national chemicals management system was an

opportunity to improve its efficiency both at home and, through exporting best practices, abroad. On the question of a circular economy, the sector would go still further by addressing the recycling, reuse and recovery of waste, including marine debris.

210. Mr. You, in his take-home message, underscored the importance of active industry participation in the Strategic Approach, adding that companies needed to innovate and make many changes in their respective fields, creating value from waste. They also had to educate civil society and the wider population to secure their support for sound chemicals management, which called for a commitment to social responsibility for a better society.

211. Mr. Steiner said that there were already signs of a circular economy becoming a reality, as exemplified by the proposal for China's next five-year plan to mobilize \$300 billion per year in green finance. Industry participation, especially the all-pervasive chemicals sector, was crucial, together with clear guidance along the lines of 10 principles for sustainable chemistry, which the Strategic Approach could help to formulate. As for his take-home message, he called for an end to the debate on lead in paint, saying that it was clearly time to take action to eliminate it. To do that was entirely feasible, he said, the only obstacle being the objections of those making money from it, and the Strategic Approach would contribute through several campaigns on the issue.

212. Ms. Ishii, in her take-home message, said that GEF aimed to act both as a convenor of a multi-stakeholder approach, creating networks that could benefit efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and as a catalyst for both financing and the development of new ideas, including that of a circular economy.

213. Ms. Thompson, in her message, said that it was time for fewer words and more implementation, that greater commitment was needed from all stakeholders to achieve the 2020 goal and that creative partnerships were key to addressing existing and emerging issues; more could be done, she said, by working together.

214. The moderator, bringing the plenary panel discussion to a close, noted the panelists' commitment to increased action and a multi-stakeholder approach and urged the Strategic Approach community to develop a strong vision of sound chemicals management beyond 2020 so as to provide policymakers and the private sector, held to account by civil society, with much-needed guidance. Pope Francis, he said, had made the moral case for action in his recent speech before the General Assembly.

#### **D. Ministerial and other high-level statements**

215. Ministers and other high-level representatives of the following countries delivered statements: Armenia, Gabon, Ghana, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Uruguay and Zambia.

216. All who took the floor expressed appreciation to the Government and people of Switzerland for hosting the current session and for their hospitality, to the secretariat for the successful organization and logistical arrangements and to development partners and donors for their cooperation and assistance.

217. Several representatives highlighted the central role played by the Strategic Approach at a time of increasing awareness about the importance of the sound management of chemicals and waste, and of the need to adopt a multisectoral approach to the solution of complex, interrelated challenges. A number of representatives drew attention to the timeliness of the current session, given the recent adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals by the General Assembly and the urgent need for a strategy both to achieve the 2020 goal and to ensure the sound managements of chemicals and wastes thereafter. In that regard, several representatives said that the Strategic Approach, including the Quick Start Programme, the Global Plan of Action and the Overarching Policy Strategy, had been significant elements of global efforts for sound chemicals management. In addition, the overall orientation and guidance adopted at the current session would be crucial to the next stage of the process to 2020 and beyond. One representative observed that recognition by the 2030 Agenda of sound chemicals and waste management as a prerequisite for sustainable development accorded the Strategic Approach the prominence it deserved.

218. A number of representatives expressed pride in their countries' involvement in, and contribution to, the Strategic Approach within the wider context of chemicals management under various multilateral environmental and chemicals-related agreements and other commitments. Several stressed the central importance of multilateral action and collaboration in the management of chemicals and waste and other matters related to the protection of human health and the environment. One representative said that the environment was a fundamental consideration for Governments when

devising their policies, for businesses when developing their strategies and for individuals when carrying out their daily activities. A balanced approach, he continued, embracing both economic growth and preservation of the environment, was key to maximizing the quality of life for current and future generations. Several representatives drew attention to international principles and standards that they said should remain central to decision-making and policymaking on the management of chemicals and waste, including the precautionary principle and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

219. A number of representatives placed the need for sound management of chemicals and waste in context by drawing attention to the adverse human health, environmental and economic consequences of unsound management, with the effects being most heavily felt by vulnerable groups and populations. One representative highlighted a number of challenges that his country was grappling with, in common with many other developing countries, in combating those ill effects, including inadequate financial, technical and human resources; inadequate awareness of the dangers of chemicals and waste; and inadequate infrastructure for sound management. Another representative said that the growing list of emerging policy issues was of grave concern to populations in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Some representatives highlighted the particular problems arising from the dumping of large quantities of e-waste in Africa and the inappropriate handling of those wastes. Some representatives focused on national disasters that had resulted from the improper storage and handling of highly hazardous wastes.

220. On the matter of solutions to the challenges faced, a number of representatives said that there was a need for a cross-sectoral, collaborative approach utilizing action-oriented partnerships among stakeholders. Several mentioned the importance of a life-cycle approach when dealing with chemicals and waste. One representative called for greater production and availability of safe alternatives that were environmentally benign, economically viable, commercially available and appropriately applicable. A number of representatives emphasized the importance of strengthening the institutional capacity of agencies managing toxic and hazardous substances, with one saying that that capability would be further bolstered by the strengthening of the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. Strengthening the legal and regulatory framework was also mentioned as conducive to sound chemicals management. Several representatives highlighted the responsibility of industry for the safe production and sound management of chemicals throughout the value chain. One representative said that achieving the 2020 goal would require extensive disclosure of information at all stages of the supply chain on the impacts of chemicals on the environment and human health.

221. Many representatives gave examples of measures being undertaken at the national level to achieve sound chemicals management, including the integration of chemicals-related issues in national action and implementation plans, policies and strategies. Specific measures alluded to included the establishment of a national chemicals management board and a national committee on chemicals management, interagency cooperation between government ministries and departments, the strengthening or enacting of national laws and regulations, ratification of international conventions, the bolstering and issuing of guidance on national customs regulations, and risk assessments. Several representatives gave examples of measures being implemented in collaboration with United Nations agencies and bilateral partners, including the hosting and participating in workshops and other activities at the national and regional levels. A number of representatives expressed gratitude to donors, including through the Quick Start Programme, for assistance with the implementation of national measures on sound management of chemicals and waste.

222. A common theme voiced was the need for adequate financial and technical resources to put in place the measures needed to achieve sound chemicals management at the national level. One representative said sustainable, predictable, adequate and accessible financing was a key element for the sound management of chemicals and waste in developing countries, adding that efforts to raise external funding for the sound management of chemicals had been inadequate and fell far short of projected needs. Another representative said that capacity-building and sustainable financial and technical assistance should be enhanced at the regional level to support the integration of chemicals management with economic and social objectives, enhanced by manuals, training, workshops and proactive information sharing. Another said that sustainable financing of the Strategic Approach was indispensable for the attainment of the 2020 goal and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. One representative said that sound management of chemicals in many developing countries required access to cleaner technologies and that as production of chemicals shifted towards developing countries policies were needed to encourage the transfer of technologies that minimized the release of pollutants.

223. Finally, several representatives expressed their aspirations and visions with regard to the future of sound chemicals management, and the role that the Strategic Approach would play in shaping that future, through national efforts closely linked to international cooperation. Of immediate importance was a sustained effort to achieve the 2020 goal, supported by such mechanisms as the overall orientation and guidance, the emerging policy issues agenda and the chemicals in products programme. A number of representatives welcomed the recent adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals as an opportunity to firmly set sound chemicals management within the wider context of global development. One representative expressed the hope that the process initiated by the discussions at the current session would help set the world on the path to a future in which chemicals did not pose a threat to human health and the environment. Another said that it was time to be pragmatic, but also optimistic of a more prosperous future where all people benefited from sound chemicals management, no matter who they were or where they lived.

#### **E. Closure of the high-level segment**

224. In closing the high-level segment the President said that the example of The Ocean Cleanup and its young founder should inspire all stakeholders to renew their commitments to the Strategic Approach; he challenged Africa in particular to respond to the example set by the Cleanup, calling it a clear example of how waste could be transformed into something of value and a demonstration of the clear need for social responsibility and civic-mindedness. Saying that the segment had fulfilled its aim of inspiring broader participation in the Strategic Approach, he thanked the ministers and other high-level speakers for the many examples of national action to implement the Strategic Approach. The discussion during the segment had stressed that the sound management of chemicals and wastes was at the core of successfully eradicating poverty and disease, improving human health and the environment and elevating standards of living in all countries. Among the messages clearly articulated were that the Strategic Approach was open, inclusive and transparent and that collaboration, cooperation and continuity were crucial to achieving the 2020 goal. Strategic Approach campaigns and strategies were critical, and participants were committed to making the Approach an incubator of innovation, and he urged them to continue in that spirit as they continued to move from debate to action in a systematic manner that went beyond 2020 and embraced the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In closing, he invoked the Pope's message that one who harmed the environment harmed all of humanity, saying that it had not been aimed at any one group, but rather at everyone.

#### **X. Other matters (agenda item 9)**

225. The Conference took up no other matters.

#### **XI. Adoption of the report (agenda item 10)**

226. The Conference adopted the present report on the basis of the draft report contained in documents SAICM/ICCM.4/L.1 and Add.1, on the understanding that the Secretariat, under the direction of the Rapporteur, would be entrusted with its finalization.

#### **XII. Closure of the session (agenda item 11)**

227. During the closure of the current session one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries and asking that his statement be reflected in the present report, said that those countries considered the work of the Global PFC Group and other stakeholders on perfluorinated chemicals to be important; he invited the Group and stakeholders to continue that work and to report thereon to the Open-ended Working Group at its third meeting and to the Conference at its fifth session. Following that and other statements in the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the session closed at 6 p.m. on Friday, 2 October 2015.

## Annex I

### Resolutions

#### IV/1: Implementation towards the achievement of the 2020 goal

*The Conference,*

*Recalling* its request to the secretariat at its third session to develop an overall orientation and guidance, including some concrete elements, to facilitate the achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management,

*Recalling also* that the overall orientation and guidance was to be developed under the guidance of the Bureau, to be further discussed at regional meetings and by the Open-ended Working Group and for possible consideration at the fourth session of the Conference,

*Welcoming with appreciation* the extensive regional discussions that informed the development of the overall orientation and guidance and the consultative process of the secretariat in finalizing the overall orientation and guidance,

*Recalling* the outcome document, “The future we want,” from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, which states: “We reaffirm our aim to achieve, by 2020, the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous waste in ways that lead to minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”;

*Welcoming* the considerable progress made in implementing the Overarching Policy Strategy since the adoption of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in 2006 and towards achieving the 2020 goal,

*Noting* however that in most countries more progress has to be made towards actually minimizing the significant adverse effects on human health and the environment that may be associated with some chemical production, use and end-of-life disposal,

*Welcoming* the progress report for 2011–2013 on the implementation of the Strategic Approach developed by the secretariat,

*Welcoming also* the fact that the sound management of chemicals and waste is addressed in several of the Sustainable Development Goals, thereby underpinning the importance of addressing chemicals and waste,

*Noting* that the adequate implementation of sound chemical management responsibilities is a resource-intensive task and also noting with concern that it represents a particular challenge for developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

*Noting with urgency* the limited time remaining to achieve the 2020 goal,

*Recognizing* that the sound management of chemicals and waste is one of the essential requirements for sustainable development and that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents an opportunity to ensure increased political attention for chemicals and waste,

*Recognizing also* the potential of approaches that facilitate and strengthen cooperation and coordination between the Strategic Approach secretariat, the organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the joint secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and other relevant stakeholders and actors in the chemicals and waste area, including by strengthening existing structures and advancing joint actions,

*Expressing appreciation* to all the donors, implementers and other partners that have contributed to the success of the Strategic Approach and the Quick Start Programme and its Trust Fund,

*Welcoming with appreciation* the contributions made by the Quick Start Programme in providing support to achieving the 2020 goal and noting that the needs so far have exceeded available resources,

*Welcoming* the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and wastes developed by the United Nations Environment Programme, which is applicable to the Strategic Approach and underscores that the three components of an integrated approach, namely, mainstreaming, industry involvement and dedicated external financing, are mutually reinforcing and are all important for the financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste at all levels,

*Welcoming also* the resources for Strategic Approach implementation made available in its sixth replenishment by the Global Environment Facility, as one of the elements of dedicated external financing under the integrated approach, for Strategic Approach implementation,

*Acknowledging with concern* that the scale of resources available from all sources, including through the Quick Start Programme and the Global Environment Facility, are insufficient to achieve the goal of sound management of chemicals in developing countries,

*Welcoming* the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management as one of the elements of dedicated external financing under the integrated approach agreed by the United Nations Environment Assembly,<sup>1</sup>

1. *Endorses* the overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals<sup>2</sup> as a voluntary tool that will assist in the prioritization of efforts for the sound management of chemicals and waste as a contribution to the overall implementation of the Strategic Approach;
2. *Confirms* its intent to focus continued implementation of the Strategic Approach, through its stakeholders, including the six core activity areas contained in the overall orientation and guidance in support of achieving the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy;
3. *Urges* all stakeholders to take concerted steps to implement the overall orientation and guidance, including the 11 basic elements identified therein, in line with the Overarching Policy Strategy;
4. *Encourages stakeholders* to achieve concrete risk reduction objectives aimed at the minimization of adverse effects on human health and the environment that may be associated with some chemical production, use and end-of-life disposal;
5. *Recognizes* the need to deepen and broaden United Nations system-wide engagement, invites the organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and of the United Nations Environment Management Group that have not already done so to issue, where possible by 1 July 2016, a declaration signalling their commitment to promote the importance of the sound management of chemicals and waste both within and outside their organizations, including the actions planned within their own mandates to meet the 2020 goal, and requests the Secretariat to make these declarations and planned actions available to all stakeholders;
6. *Welcomes* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the integration of the 2020 goal into its Sustainable Development Goals, and notes the potential for the Strategic Approach multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder platform to make a significant contribution to the implementation of that Agenda, in particular its goals and targets relating to chemicals and wastes;
7. *Encourages* Governments and other stakeholders to use the Strategic Approach as a framework for national action and international cooperation to implement the sustainable management of chemicals and waste and chemicals and waste-related aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
8. *Emphasizes* the importance of including the sound management of chemicals and wastes as a priority within national development planning processes and poverty reduction strategies so as to contribute to mainstreaming and signal to Governments, donors, intergovernmental organizations and other stakeholders the cross-cutting nature and importance of the sound management of chemicals in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
9. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to continue to support projects that implement the Strategic Approach, taking into account the areas identified in the overall orientation and guidance,

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5, annex.

<sup>2</sup> SAICM/ICCM.4/6, annex.



and to consider enhancing funding for the Strategic Approach in the process of the seventh replenishment of its trust fund;

10. *Encourages* all stakeholders to establish or strengthen partnerships and mechanisms for technological cooperation and the provision of appropriate and clean technology to and among developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as reflected in the capacity-building and technical cooperation objective of the Overarching Policy Strategy;

11. *Invites* Strategic Approach stakeholders, including the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to pursue additional initiatives aimed at mobilizing resources to support relevant government agencies, intergovernmental organizations, industry and public interest stakeholders to fully implement the six core activity areas of the overall orientation and guidance and to undertake the full range of risk reduction activities necessary to minimize the adverse effects on human health and the environment that may be associated with some chemical production, use and end-of-life disposal;

12. *Encourages* all stakeholders to take the necessary action to support the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste;

13. *Requests* all stakeholders and the secretariat to support the implementation of the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and wastes;

14. *Urges* private sector and bilateral, multilateral and global agencies or developed country donors to provide developing countries, particularly least developed countries and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition with support to complement their national actions towards reaching the 2020 goal;

15. *Welcomes* efforts made in the implementation of the strategy on strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach adopted by the Conference in its resolution III/4 and encourages all relevant Strategic Approach stakeholders to continue their efforts, with the World Health Organization serving a key role in continuing these efforts;

16. *Welcomes* the leading and coordinating role of the World Health Organization, encourages the contribution of the health sector towards implementation of the overall orientation and guidance and takes note of the health sector priorities;<sup>3</sup>

17. *Requests* the secretariat, in cooperation with the Strategic Approach regional focal points where appropriate, to support the Strategic Approach national focal points in undertaking the actions suggested in the overall orientation and guidance;

18. *Requests* the secretariat to develop a third progress report including achievements, strengths and weaknesses for the period 2014–2016 and an analysis of the 20 indicators of progress for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its third meeting, and also directs the Open-ended Working Group to consider the need for a report for the period 2017–2019 for consideration by the Conference at its fifth session;

19. *Calls upon* the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and relevant conventions to enhance support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to achieve the 2020 goal;

20. *Requests* the secretariat to report on progress in the implementation of the overall orientation and guidance at the fifth session of the Conference and to submit an interim report to the Open-ended Working Group at its third meeting.

## **IV/2: Emerging policy issues**

### **I**

#### **Introduction**

*The Conference,*

*Recalling* the goal established by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as set out in paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, of ensuring that by 2020 chemicals are produced and used in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment,

<sup>3</sup> SAICM/ICCM.4/15, annex III.

*Reaffirming* its resolutions II/4 and III/2 on emerging policy issues and acknowledging with appreciation the cooperative actions undertaken by Strategic Approach stakeholders on the emerging policy issues of lead in paint, chemicals in products, hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials and endocrine-disrupting chemicals and recognizing their contribution toward the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management,

*Considering* the nomination of environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants as a new emerging policy issue,

*Recalling* its request that the secretariat report on the progress made in the work on emerging policy issues at its fourth session,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the reports on progress made in the work on emerging policy issues;
2. *Encourages* further implementation of cooperative actions by all Strategic Approach stakeholders on emerging policy issues;
3. *Also encourages* continued and enhanced risk reduction and information sharing efforts on emerging policy issues;
4. *Stresses* the need to foster coherent implementation of emerging policy issues;
5. *Requests* the lead agencies of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, Governments and other relevant stakeholders to report through the secretariat on progress in the implementation of Conference resolutions on emerging policy issues to the Open-ended Working Group and the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session;
6. *Invites* all Strategic Approach stakeholders in a position to do so to provide resources for further work on emerging policy issues, including financial resources to facilitate means of implementation for developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
7. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to support the implementation of the Conference resolutions of all emerging policy issues and to continue that support in its seventh replenishment;

## II

### Existing emerging policy issues

#### A

##### Lead in paint

*Recalling* its resolution II/4 B on lead in paint adopted at its second session and the establishment by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint as a voluntary global partnership,

*Recalling also* its resolution III/2 B on lead in paint adopted at its third session and its welcoming of the formation of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint,

*Welcoming* the progress to date made by the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, including the recent formation of the advisory group for the Alliance, and the contributions by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, and of the United States of America as chair of the advisory group,

*Noting* the inclusion of risk reduction as a Strategic Approach objective,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint to achieve its goal to phase out lead in paint by 2020;
2. *Encourages* Governments, civil society organizations and the private sector to participate in the work of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint and assist in achieving the above goal;
3. *Encourages* Strategic Approach stakeholders to promote and/or initiate national and/or regional discussions to address the possible establishment of effective measures, including regulation, to phase out the use of lead in paint;

## B

**Chemicals in products**

*Recalling* its resolutions II/4 C and III/2 C, dealing with cooperative action to improve availability of and access to relevant information on chemicals in products in the supply chain and throughout their life cycles,

*Recalling also* its decision in resolution III/2 C to develop a proposal for a voluntary, international and multi-stakeholder programme for information on chemicals in products along the supply chain and throughout their life cycles,

*Acknowledging with appreciation* the progress made in the development of a chemicals in products programme proposal and the guidance on chemicals in products led by the United Nations Environment Programme and supported by the Steering Group and facilitation of pilot projects,

*Acknowledging also* the report “The Business Case for Knowing Chemicals in Products and Supply Chains”,

*Acknowledging further* existing information system initiatives and standards with a view to learning, sharing best practices and avoiding duplication of effort, as well as the advantages for stakeholders that information systems and related initiatives on chemicals in products throughout their life cycles have for supply chain actors, workers, consumers and other relevant stakeholders,

*Recognizing* that some emerging policy issues are expected to benefit from improving the availability of information on chemicals in products,

1. *Welcomes* the chemicals in products programme document as set out in the annex to the note by the secretariat on a chemicals in products programme as a voluntary framework for all Strategic Approach stakeholders;
2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the guidance on chemicals in products, as circulated in the annex to the note by the secretariat on the issue, as a practical means of implementing the chemicals in products programme, and recognizes the guidance as a living document that will evolve, under the review of the Steering Group, to address the needs of the Strategic Approach stakeholders and encourages participants to consider the guidance in the implementation as appropriate;
3. *Encourages* the private sector, Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, including worker organizations to participate actively and report on the implementation of the chemicals in products programme and invites all stakeholders to provide adequate human, financial and in-kind resources for further work;
4. *Renews* the mandate of the Steering Group set out in resolutions II/4 C and III/2 C with additional representation of Strategic Approach stakeholders to be inclusive, suggests that representation from the recycling sector be included and requests the Steering Group to develop and adopt its own terms of reference with inputs from stakeholders;
5. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme, subject to the availability of resources, to continue to lead the chemicals in products programme in an open, transparent and inclusive manner to promote and facilitate implementation activities, with input from stakeholders, to coordinate periodic updates, as necessary, of the guidance and to provide a comprehensive report on progress to the Open-Ended Working Group at its third session as well as to the Conference at its fifth session, with support from the Steering Group;
6. *Also invites* the United Nations Environment Programme, subject to available resources, to maintain the website of the chemicals in products programme with a view to facilitating access to programme documents and promoting awareness of the use of chemicals in products information for sound chemicals management actions, as well as in coordination with the Steering Group to engage in stakeholder capacity-building and awareness-raising and to facilitate chemicals in products programme pilot and implementation activities, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition and with the involvement of relevant stakeholders and vulnerable groups;

## C

**Hazardous substances within the life cycle  
of electrical and electronic products**

*Noting* the progress report by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization<sup>4</sup> and the Strategic Approach secretariat survey on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products,<sup>5</sup> which highlight gaps and suggest the need for further work on the upstream and mid-stream levels,

*Recognizing* the report entitled “The Challenge to the Global Electronics Industry”, which addresses sound management of hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products,

1. *Encourages* stakeholders to:

(a) Consider and implement, as appropriate, the Strategic Approach Global Plan of Action, particularly the actions related to hazardous substances in electrical and electronic products adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session;

(b) Maximize risk reduction by encouraging original equipment manufacturers to adopt sustainable design and safer processes for production, waste management and recycling of electrical and electronic products throughout the supply chain and life cycle;

(c) Widely disseminate the report of ,and consider the recommendations made and the key messages delivered on hazardous chemicals within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products by the participants in, the international workshop on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products held in Vienna from 29 to 31 March 2011<sup>6</sup> when deciding on further actions to take in respect of such chemicals;

2. *Invites* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in partnership with other organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and relevant stakeholders to undertake a process to develop and finalize the workplan 2016–2020 set out in the note by the secretariat,<sup>7</sup> including by:

(a) Soliciting comments and input on the workplan from Strategic Approach stakeholders;

(b) Revising the workplan on the basis of comments received from Strategic Approach stakeholders and including indicators of progress to be reported by stakeholders as part of the report to be developed for consideration by the Conference at its fifth session;

3. *Encourages* Strategic Approach stakeholders to take steps to enhance their involvement and efforts to develop and implement the workplan wherever possible, in particular the International Labour Organization in addressing worker safety in the production of electrical and electronic products throughout the supply chain, as well as in waste management and recycling;

4. *Encourages* meaningful engagement of all Strategic Approach stakeholders to consider the recommendations from the Vienna workshop when deciding on further actions to take, in particular to:

(a) Promote advocacy, awareness, information, education and communication about hazardous chemicals in electrical and electronic products for vulnerable groups and relevant stakeholders along the supply chain beginning in 2016;

(b) Encourage original equipment manufacturers to work with their supply chains to develop and implement sustainable and effective electrical and electronic product take-back programmes;

(c) Encourage original equipment manufacturers to work with their supply chains to establish and implement industrial hygiene and environmental monitoring programmes;

(d) Facilitate the implementation of procurement initiatives that favour improved safety and sustainability profiles of electrical and electronic products, including chemicals used in manufacturing;

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<sup>4</sup> SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/18.

<sup>5</sup> SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/27/Rev.1.

<sup>6</sup> See SAICM/ICCM.3/INF/24.

<sup>7</sup> SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/18.

(e) Encourage original equipment manufacturers to collect and provide health and safety information to workers on chemicals they are handling or exposed to in electrical and electronic products manufacturing;

5. *Encourages* relevant stakeholders to consider implementing the chemicals in products programme in order to provide access to information on hazardous chemicals in the life cycle of electrical and electronic products;

## D

### Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials

*Welcoming* the continuing work of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, its participating organizations and the International Organization for Standardization, including lessons learned on effective mechanisms for information exchange,

*Welcoming and encouraging* the continued work of the United Nations subcommittee on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolutions II/4 E and III/2 E on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials;

2. *Welcomes* the report on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials prepared by the secretariat for the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management,<sup>8</sup> and in particular its conclusions recommending further actions to be taken under the Strategic Approach;

3. *Encourages* Strategic Approach stakeholders to address the sound management of manufactured nanomaterials in relevant national and international instruments, including regulatory frameworks, adapted to take into account specific properties of manufactured nanomaterials, as appropriate, and taking into consideration the objective of enhancing coordination and cooperation in the chemicals and waste cluster;

4. *Welcomes* the establishment of regional networks focusing on the safety of nanomaterials and encourages all stakeholders to develop and implement regional cooperation mechanisms;

5. *Emphasizes* the need to continue facilitating the exchange of information on the sound management of manufactured nanomaterials throughout their life cycle, for example through an appropriate clearing house mechanism and regional networks;

6. *Emphasizes* the need for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to continue development of international guidance and training materials for the sound management of manufactured nanomaterials, drawing on existing initiatives, needs assessment and best practices, within their respective mandates and subject to available resources in cooperation with the regions and other relevant stakeholders;

7. *Welcomes* the proposed workplan for the period 2016–2020 in the note by the secretariat<sup>9</sup>;

8. *Invites* all stakeholders to continue to raise awareness and enhance capacity on the sound management of manufactured nanomaterials, paying particular attention to the situation and needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, including through regional consultations and e-learning courses;

9. *Encourages* Strategic Approach stakeholders to consider using the Guidance for the Development of a National Nanotechnology Policy and Programme developed by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and other relevant documents;

## E

### Endocrine-disrupting chemicals

*Recognizing* that endocrine-disrupting chemicals can have adverse effects on human health and the environment and the need to protect humans and ecosystems and their constituent parts that are especially vulnerable, as set out in, inter alia, paragraph 14 (b) of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,

<sup>8</sup> SAICM/ICCM.4/12.

<sup>9</sup> ICCM.4/INF/19.

*Considering* the particular needs that developing countries and countries with economies in transition may increasingly have in coping with endocrine-disrupting chemicals throughout their complete life cycles and the costs of inaction,

*Welcoming* the key objective of awareness-raising and information sharing on issues related to endocrine-disrupting chemicals through the workshops on endocrine-disrupting chemicals organized by the secretariat for regional meetings in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development,

*Recognizing* that continued actions on endocrine-disrupting chemicals by all stakeholders will be needed in order to attain the objectives of the Strategic Approach,

*Reaffirming* that Strategic Approach stakeholders should decide the extent to which they will take action on endocrine-disrupting chemicals, respecting domestic and international obligations,

1. *Welcomes*<sup>10</sup> the report by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization entitled “State of the Science of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals – 2012”, which identifies concerns, including evidence in humans, laboratory animals and wildlife that exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals can result in adverse effects; the most critical window of exposure is during development and exposure during early life stages can result in adult-onset disease; and an important focus should be on reducing exposure;

2. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization to address the needs identified by developing countries and countries with economies in transition, subject to available resources, by generating and disseminating information on endocrine-disrupting chemicals, as part of the workplan set out in the progress report on endocrine disrupting chemicals prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development;<sup>11</sup>

3. *Acknowledges* the work by the Advisory Group on Endocrine Disruptors Testing and Assessment of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and efforts by Governments and other stakeholders;

4. *Invites* the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to further develop and implement the plan of work for the cooperative actions set out in the progress report referred to in paragraph 2 above<sup>12</sup> in an open, inclusive and transparent manner, and requests all interested stakeholders to support those efforts.

### III

#### **New emerging policy issue: environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants**

*Recognizing* that pharmaceuticals are used in both human and animal health care and have major benefits for human health and animal welfare,

*Recognizing also* the potential adverse effects associated with exposure to environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants on human health and the environment and the need to protect humans and ecosystems and their constituent parts that are especially vulnerable, as set out in paragraph 14 (b) of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach,

*Mindful* of the scope of the Strategic Approach and the work being done by other international bodies,

1. *Agrees* that international cooperation is crucial to build awareness and understanding and promote action on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants as an emerging policy issue;

2. *Considers* that information dissemination and awareness-raising on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants are particularly relevant and that improving the availability of and access to information on such chemicals is a priority;

<sup>10</sup> The International Council of Chemical Associations, CropLife International and the United States Council for International Business wish to note that the methodology and conclusions of the report remain contentious among certain scientific groups.

<sup>11</sup> SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/20, annex, sect. III.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

3. *Recognizes* the current knowledge gaps on exposure to and the effects of environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants;
4. *Decides* to implement cooperative actions on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants with the overall objective of increasing awareness and understanding among policymakers and other stakeholders;
5. *Invites* Governments and other stakeholders to generate and share information to fill the identified knowledge gaps;
6. *Invites* relevant participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals within their respective mandates as part of their programmes of work to lead and facilitate cooperative action and to develop a plan of work on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants in an open, transparent and inclusive manner;
7. *Requests* all interested stakeholders and organizations to provide support, including expertise, financial and in-kind resources, on a voluntary basis, for such cooperative action, including by participating in developing and making available relevant information and guidance;
8. *Invites* relevant participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and other Strategic Approach stakeholders to report on the cooperative action on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants to the Conference at its fifth or any other session as decided upon by the Conference.

### **IV/3: Highly hazardous pesticides**

*The Conference,*

*Mindful* of the overarching goal of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as set out in its paragraph 23, of aiming to achieve, by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment,

*Recognizing* that highly hazardous pesticides cause adverse human health and environmental effects in many countries, particularly in low-income and middle-income countries,

*Noting* with appreciation the revised International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management (2014) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization, which draws specific attention to highly hazardous pesticides, as well as the significant work being done by the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization and others to raise awareness and inform and guide pesticide regulators, industry, civil society and other stakeholders on the identification and elimination of unacceptable risks from highly hazardous pesticides,

*Recognizing* that additional action on highly hazardous pesticides by Strategic Approach stakeholders will be needed in order to attain the objectives of the Strategic Approach,

*Reaffirming* that Strategic Approach stakeholders should decide the extent to which they will be able to take individual and cooperative action on highly hazardous pesticides while respecting domestic and international obligations,

*Welcoming* the initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization to develop, in consultation with other stakeholders, a proposal for a strategy to address highly hazardous pesticides in the context of the Strategic Approach as an issue of concern,

1. *Supports* concerted action to address highly hazardous pesticides in the context of the Strategic Approach and welcomes with appreciation the strategy set out in part II of the proposal on highly hazardous pesticides;<sup>13</sup>
2. *Encourages* relevant stakeholders to undertake concerted efforts to implement the strategy at the local, national, regional and international levels, with emphasis on promoting agroecologically-based alternatives and strengthening national regulatory capacity to conduct risk assessment and risk management, including the availability of necessary information, mindful of the responsibility of national and multinational enterprises;

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<sup>13</sup> SAICM/ICCM.4/8.

3. *Welcomes* the offer of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization to develop modalities for international coordination in the context of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;

4. *Invites* appropriate organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to facilitate collaboration, cooperation and contributions of stakeholders in the implementation of the strategy;

5. *Invites* Strategic Approach stakeholders to report, through the secretariat, on progress on implementing the strategy to the Open-ended Working Group at its third session and to the Conference at its fifth session.

#### **IV/4: The Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020**

*The Conference,*

*Recalling* the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

*Noting* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in particular the targets to achieve, by 2020, the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycles, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and to significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment and to substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination by 2030,

*Recalling* the Millennium Development Goals and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development entitled “The future we want”, and in particular the aim to achieve, by 2020, the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycles and of hazardous waste in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment,

*Recalling also* resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, in which the Environment Assembly welcomed the important contribution of the Strategic Approach in facilitating action by all relevant stakeholders towards the sound management of chemicals and waste, emphasized the need for continued and strengthened multisectoral and multi-stakeholder involvement and recognized that the need to prevent or minimize the significant adverse effects from chemicals and hazardous wastes on human health and the environment would continue to provide a strong basis for sound chemicals and waste management beyond 2020,

*Recalling further* the outcome of the country-led consultative process supported by the United Nations Environment Programme on enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and waste cluster and the outcome document of the process, entitled “Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term”,

*Noting* that projections as set out in the 2012 Global Chemicals Outlook show an increase in chemical production and use worldwide, continuing beyond 2020, with the largest increases also occurring in developing countries and countries with economies in transition and that all countries will need to continue strengthening their capacity for governance, knowledge- and information-sharing and risk reduction required to promote the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020,

*Noting also* the continuing need to respond to new and emerging issues and to ensure that newly identified risks to human health and the environment can be identified and timely action taken to reduce those risks,

*Noting further* the value of a voluntary, multisectoral and multi-stakeholder approach to mobilize all actors, which can enable flexible and timely action to promote the sound management of chemicals and waste,

*Recognizing* the need to start considering arrangements for the period beyond 2020,

1. *Requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to contract an independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach in accordance with the terms of reference set out in the annex to the present resolution;

2. *Decides* to initiate an intersessional process to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020;



3. *Also decides* that the intersessional process should include, in principle, two meetings before the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and one meeting between the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and that it may also work by correspondence and/or by electronic means;
4. *Directs* the Open-ended Working Group to consider the need to call an additional meeting of the intersessional process before the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management;
5. *Decides* that meetings of the intersessional process should, as far as possible, be held back-to-back with other relevant meetings and processes;
6. *Requests* the Bureau of the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, with assistance of the secretariat, to notify the stakeholders by 31 March 2016 of the first meeting of the intersessional process specified in the present resolution and, in consultation with the participants at that first meeting, to draw up the timetable for the subsequent meetings;
7. *Decides* that the intersessional process should be open to all stakeholders and requests the secretariat to support, subject to the availability of resources, the participation of stakeholders eligible for funding as identified by the regions and sectors through the Bureau, up to eight from African States, eight from Asian-Pacific States, three from Central and Eastern European States, five from Latin American and Caribbean States and two representatives of each of the health, trade union and public interest sectors of non-governmental participants, in order to support balanced regional and sectoral participation;
8. *Also decides* that the participants at the first meeting of the intersessional process should elect two co-chairs from among the Governmental participants present at that meeting;
9. *Further decides* that the work of the intersessional process is to be informed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the outcome document “Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term”, including the vision to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycles and of hazardous wastes in ways that lead to the prevention or minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment as an essential contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development;
10. *Decides* that the intersessional process should, among other things, consider the need for and develop recommendations regarding measurable objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
11. *Requests* that the secretariat make available and that the intersessional process consider relevant available documents, including the independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach referred to in paragraph 1 above, the overall orientation and guidance, relevant documents and reports of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, the Open-ended Working Group and regional meetings, relevant United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions and other relevant documents available on the Strategic Approach website, the Global Chemicals Outlook, Global Waste Management Outlook, report entitled “Cost of Inaction on the Sound Management of Chemicals” by the United Nations Environment Programme and related World Health Organization health priority documents;
12. *Directs* the Open-ended Working Group to consider the conclusions of the independent evaluation and any recommendations identified by the intersessional process for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session.

## **Annex**

### **Terms of reference for the evaluation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management**

#### **I. Objective**

1. The present document outlines the terms of reference for the independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management called for by the International Conference on Chemicals Management in its resolution IV/4.
2. The aim of the evaluation is to provide information to enable the intersessional process referred to in paragraph 2 of resolution IV/4 to develop recommendations and to enable the International

Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session to take an informed decision on future arrangements for the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

## **II. Methodology**

3. The secretariat is requested to engage an independent evaluator to produce an evaluation consistent with the present terms of reference.
4. The evaluation is to cover the period from the adoption of the Strategic Approach in 2006 to 2015. It may also cover any insights gained in the period from 2015 to the finalization of the evaluation.
5. The evaluation should take into account, among other things, the available evaluation of progress in implementing the Strategic Approach, the evaluation of the Quick Start Programme, the relevant reports and resolutions from the International Conference on Chemicals Management, the Open-ended Working Group and regional meetings, the overall orientation and guidance, and national implementation plans of the Strategic Approach. The evaluator may also collect information from stakeholders on their experiences implementing the Strategic Approach, and may use various methods of qualitative and quantitative information collection, including questionnaires and interviews, taking into account regional, gender and stakeholder balance.

## **III. Report on the evaluation**

6. An interim report on the evaluation will be made available to all stakeholders at least one month ahead of the first meeting of the intersessional process. A draft of the final report will be made available to all stakeholders at least one month ahead of the second meeting of the intersessional process. The final report, taking into account, as appropriate, the additional comments on the draft final report from stakeholders, will be made available to all stakeholders at least two months before the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group that will precede the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.
7. The reports will contain an introduction, an executive summary and a brief history of the Strategic Approach, and will present information in support of conclusions and, where appropriate, lessons drawn in respect of the implementation of the Strategic Approach, including, in particular:
  - (a) Impact of the Strategic Approach;
  - (b) Strengths, weaknesses and gaps in implementing the Strategic Approach, taking into account the eleven basic elements identified in the overall orientation and guidance ;
  - (c) Progress towards targets;
  - (d) Institutional arrangements within the voluntary multisectoral and multi-stakeholder approach of the Strategic Approach.
8. The independent evaluator will present information, as appropriate, on the following elements in the report, on the understanding that the information provided is intended to inform rather than prejudice intersessional discussions on the subject:
  - (a) Objectives for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020;
  - (b) Identifying and taking action on new or emerging issues;
  - (c) Coordination and cooperation with relevant multilateral environmental agreements and organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;
  - (d) Relevance of impacts to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
  - (e) Maintenance and development of indicators of progress;
  - (f) Identifying and taking action on regional and subregional needs for advancing sound management of chemicals and waste.
9. The evaluation should be focused and succinct and its executive summary should be made available in the six official languages of the United Nations.

## **IV/5: Activities of the secretariat and budget**

*The Conference,*

*Taking note* of the secretariat activities and budget document for 2016–2018 and 2019–2020,<sup>14</sup>

*Recalling* that funding for the secretariat is provided on a voluntary basis,

*Welcoming* the growing number of Governments providing cash support for the work of the secretariat and the support from other stakeholders,

*Recalling* its resolution I/1, which invites the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization to provide staff to enable their organizations to take lead roles in the secretariat in their respective areas of expertise,

*Recalling also* resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, in which the Environment Assembly invites the Director General of the World Health Organization to assume a leading role in the Strategic Approach and to provide appropriate staff and other resources to its secretariat,

*Noting with urgency* the limited time remaining in which to achieve the 2020 goal,

1. *Welcomes* the support of the United Nations Environment Programme in continuing to strengthen the Strategic Approach in the lead-up to 2020 including by strengthening staffing for the secretariat and contributing financially towards the organization of the fourth session of the Conference;
2. *Notes with appreciation* the work undertaken by the secretariat and the successes achieved since the adoption of the Strategic Approach;
3. *Calls upon* the World Health Organization to continue supporting the work of the secretariat in its areas of expertise by reassigning a staff member to the secretariat at the earliest date possible in the light of its lead role in the Strategic Approach and notes the prominence given in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to the Strategic Approach goal and to substantially reducing the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination;
4. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to forward the call to the World Health Organization to the next meeting of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization and to suggest that it be addressed by the World Health Assembly;
5. *Encourages* all Governments and other stakeholders in a position to do so to contribute financial and other resources to enable the secretariat to perform its mandated functions as set out in paragraph 28 of the Overarching Policy Strategy and in resolutions of the Conference and invites the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to make information on the financial needs and contributions of the Strategic Approach available to the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme;
6. *Approves* the indicative budget, staffing structure and programme of work for the secretariat for the period 2016–2020, as set out in tables 1–3 of the present resolution;
7. *Approves* the upgrade of the P-2 Strategic Approach General Associate Programme Officer to P-3 Programme Officer;
8. *Approves* a budget allocation for the P-3 Knowledge Management Programme Officer;
9. *Notes* that the full and final closure of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund will take place before the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and delegates to the Executive Board of the Quick Start Programme, acting on a recommendation from the secretariat, the making of the decision on the appropriate date for closure, taking into account that the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme should be informed at least six months in advance of the closure;
10. *Decides* to hold a third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group in advance of the fifth session of the Conference and decides that it may be held in 2018 or early 2019;

<sup>14</sup> SAICM/ICCM.4/14.

11. *Invites* the Strategic Approach secretariat to further increase cooperation and coordination with relevant stakeholders, such as the secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and other intergovernmental organizations, and to enhance synergies with the medium-term strategy on chemicals and waste of the United Nations Environment Programme on issues of common relevance;

12. *Directs* the Open-ended Working Group to consider changes in budget priorities and if absolutely necessary an increase in the overall size of the budget until 2020 and delegates authority to the Open-ended Working Group to take a decision on the matter;

13. *Requests* the secretariat to report to the Conference on its activities, staffing and budget at its fifth session and to provide interim information to the Open-ended Working Group at its third meeting.

**Table 1**  
**Indicative budget for the Strategic Approach secretariat for the period 2016–2020**

(United States dollars)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
<b>10 Project personnel component</b>						
<b>1100</b>						
1101 Coordinator, D–1 <sup>a</sup>	–	–	–	–	–	–
1102 Programme Officer P–4 (Health, WHO)	–	–	–	–	–	–
1103 Programme Officer P–4 (Strategic Approach)	247 520	257 421	267 718	278 426	289 563	1 340 648
1104 Programme Officer P–3 (Knowledge Management)	204 048	212 210	220 698	229 526	238 707	1 105 190
1105 Programme Officer P–3 (QSP)	204 048	212 210	220 698	229 526	–	866 482
1106 Programme Officer P–3 (Strategic Approach, upgraded from P-2)	204 048	212 210	220 698	229 526	238 707	1 105 190
1107 Associate Programme Officer P–2 (QSP)	166 816	173 489	–	–	–	340 305
<b>1199 Subtotal</b>	<b>1 026 480</b>	<b>1 067 539</b>	<b>929 813</b>	<b>967 005</b>	<b>766 978</b>	<b>4 757 815</b>
<b>1200 Consultants (description of activity or service)</b>						
1201 Consultants	170 000	170 000	100 000	50 000	50 000	540 000
<b>1299 Subtotal</b>	<b>170 000</b>	<b>170 000</b>	<b>100 000</b>	<b>50 000</b>	<b>50 000</b>	<b>540 000</b>
<b>1300 Administrative support (title and grade)</b>						
1301 Secretary (Strategic Approach) G–4/5	156 806	163 078	169 601	176 385	183 441	849 312
1320 Overtime or temporary assistance	–	–	–	–	10 000	10 000
<b>1399 Total</b>	<b>156 806</b>	<b>163 078</b>	<b>169 601</b>	<b>176 385</b>	<b>193 441</b>	<b>859 312</b>
<b>1600 Travel on official business</b>						
1601 Staff travel on official business	60 000	70 000	60 000	70 000	60 000	320 000
<b>1699 Total</b>	<b>60 000</b>	<b>70 000</b>	<b>60 000</b>	<b>70 000</b>	<b>60 000</b>	<b>320 000</b>
<b>1999 Component total</b>	<b>1 413 286</b>	<b>1 470 617</b>	<b>1 259 414</b>	<b>1 263 391</b>	<b>1 070 419</b>	<b>6 477 127</b>

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
<b>20 Subcontract component</b>						
<b>2100 Subcontracts for conference services and venue</b>						
2101 Quick Start Programme Executive Board	2 000	–	–	2 000	–	4 000
2102 Regional meetings	–	80 000	–	80 000	–	160 000
2103 Third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group	–	–	300 000	–	–	300 000
2104 Bureau meetings	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000	15 000
2105 Fifth session of the Conference	–	–	–	–	450 000	450 000
2106 Intersessional process beyond 2020	25 000	25 000	25 000	–	–	75 000
<b>2299 Subtotal</b>	<b>30 000</b>	<b>108 000</b>	<b>328 000</b>	<b>85 000</b>	<b>453 000</b>	<b>1 004 000</b>
<b>2999 Component total</b>	<b>30 000</b>	<b>108 000</b>	<b>328 000</b>	<b>85 000</b>	<b>453 000</b>	<b>1 004 000</b>
<b>3100 Meetings and conferences (title)</b>						
3101 Quick Start Programme Executive Board	13 000	–	–	13 000	–	26 000
3102 Regional meetings	–	280 000	–	290 000	–	570 000
3103 Third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group	–	–	400 000	–	–	400 000
3104 Bureau meetings	23 500	24 000	24 500	25 000	25 500	122 500
3105 Fifth session of the Conference	–	–	–	–	1 000 000	1 000 000
3106 Intersessional process beyond 2020	125 000	125 000	125 000	–	–	375 000
<b>3399 Subtotal</b>	<b>161 500</b>	<b>429 000</b>	<b>549 500</b>	<b>328 000</b>	<b>1 025 500</b>	<b>2 493 500</b>
<b>3999 Component total</b>	<b>161 500</b>	<b>429 000</b>	<b>549 500</b>	<b>328 000</b>	<b>1 025 500</b>	<b>2 493 500</b>
<b>40 Equipment and premises component</b>						
<b>4100 Expendable equipment (items under \$1,500)</b>						
4101 Office supplies	1 200	1 200	1 200	1 200	1 200	6 000
4102 Computer software	2 000	–	–	–	–	2 000
<b>4199 Subtotal</b>	<b>3 200</b>	<b>1 200</b>	<b>1 200</b>	<b>1 200</b>	<b>1 200</b>	<b>8 000</b>
<b>4200 Non-expendable equipment (see items listed on budget worksheet)</b>						
4201 Computer hardware	1 500	1 500	1 500	–	–	4 500
<b>4299 Subtotal</b>	<b>1 500</b>	<b>1 500</b>	<b>1 500</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>4 500</b>
4300 Premises (rent)						
4301 Office rental and premises	17 000	17 500	18 000	18 500	19 000	90 000

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
<b>4399 Subtotal</b>	<b>17 000</b>	<b>17 500</b>	<b>18 000</b>	<b>18 500</b>	<b>19 000</b>	<b>90 000</b>
<b>4999 Component total</b>	<b>21 700</b>	<b>20 200</b>	<b>20 700</b>	<b>19 700</b>	<b>20 200</b>	<b>102 500</b>
<b>50 Miscellaneous component</b>						
<b>5200 Reporting costs</b>						
5201 Printing and translation costs	7 000	7 500	8 000	9 000	12 000	43 500
5202 Publication of Strategic Approach texts	20 000	–	–	–	–	20 000
<b>5299 Subtotal</b>	<b>27 000</b>	<b>7 500</b>	<b>8 000</b>	<b>9 000</b>	<b>12 000</b>	<b>63 500</b>
<b>5300 Sundry</b>						
5301 Communications	7 200	7 200	7 200	7 200	7 200	36 000
<b>5399 Subtotal</b>	<b>7 200</b>	<b>7 200</b>	<b>7 200</b>	<b>7 200</b>	<b>7 200</b>	<b>36 000</b>
5500 Evaluation						
5501 Final evaluation	–	–	–	–	30 000	30 000
<b>5499 Subtotal</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>30 000</b>	<b>30 000</b>
<b>5999 Component total</b>	<b>34 200</b>	<b>14 700</b>	<b>15 200</b>	<b>16 200</b>	<b>49 200</b>	<b>129 500</b>
<b>Direct project cost</b>	<b>1 660 686</b>	<b>2 042 517</b>	<b>2 172 814</b>	<b>1 712 291</b>	<b>2 618 319</b>	<b>10 206 627</b>
<b>Programme support costs (13 per cent)</b>	<b>215 889</b>	<b>265 527</b>	<b>282 466</b>	<b>222 598</b>	<b>340 381</b>	<b>1 326 861</b>
<b>99 Grand total</b>	<b>1 876 575</b>	<b>2 308 045</b>	<b>2 455 280</b>	<b>1 934 888</b>	<b>2 958 700</b>	<b>11 533 488</b>

<sup>a</sup> The Strategic Approach Coordinator D-1 position is funded from the Environment Fund of UNEP

**Table 2**  
**Indicative staffing table**

<i>Staff category and level</i>	<i>2016–2020</i>
A. Professional and higher	
D-1 (provided and funded by UNEP Environment Fund)	1
P-4 (two for the Strategic Approach secretariat, including one position previously funded and filled by WHO)	2
P-3 (one for Quick Start Programme until end of 2019, one for Strategic Approach secretariat (upgrade from P-2) and one for the information clearing-house)	3
P-2 (one for Quick Start Programme, until end of 2017)	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>7</b>
B. General Service	1
<b>Total (A + B)</b>	<b>8</b>



**Table 3**  
**Activities following the fourth session of the Conference (2016–2020)**

<i>Function of the Strategic Approach secretariat</i>	<i>Proposed activities 2016–2020</i>
<b>Core mandate (paragraph 28 of the Overarching Policy Strategy)</b>	
(a) Facilitate meetings and intersessional work of the Conference, as well as regional meetings	<p>The fifth session of the Conference in 2020</p> <p>The third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group in advance of the fifth session of the Conference</p> <p>Two rounds of regional meetings in advance of the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the fifth session of the Conference, in order to prepare for the meetings and to facilitate input into Strategic Approach activities, receive updates from regions against priority actions agreed upon by the Conference at its fourth session and to promote the exchange of expertise and information and teleconferences in the intersessional period to guide Strategic Approach activities and preparations for the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the fifth session of the Conference</p> <p>Three meetings of the intersessional process on the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, in line with the terms of reference for the intersessional process</p> <p>Planning and fundraising for the above meetings</p>
(b) Report to the Conference on implementation of the Strategic Approach by stakeholders	<p>Preparation of two further reporting exercises during the period 2014–2020, including an analysis of the 20 indicators of progress in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, based on consultations with stakeholders and focal points and analysis of data collected</p> <p>Monitor the secretariat budget and donor contributions and coordinate the preparation of reports to donors</p>
(c) Promote the establishment and maintenance of a network of Strategic Approach stakeholders	<p>Continue to engage with and serve as a platform for the large network of Strategic Approach stakeholders and sectors, proactively encouraging the nomination of focal points by such stakeholders and greater use of the webinar system of the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to facilitate regular communications</p> <p>Development of an information clearing house, building on existing clearing houses such as the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch, the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention, the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) organizations, and other Strategic Approach stakeholders with the aim of enhancing their engagement and serving as a means to share information and foster enhanced engagement of different sectors</p> <p>As the Quick Start Programme (QSP) will have many outputs and lessons learned, it will be important for the secretariat to continue to foster relationships with Strategic Approach stakeholders, notably with the secretariats of the Global Environment Facility and the Special Programme to Support Institutional Strengthening at the National Level</p> <p>Promote the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste as set out in resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and in particular pillar 2 calling for enhanced industry involvement in the financing of sound chemicals management</p>
(d) Facilitate the development and dissemination of guidance materials	<p>Work with the lead organizations dealing with emerging policy issues to promote the development of workplans and disseminate guidance documents, where relevant, and facilitate appropriate updates</p> <p>IOMC participating organizations and other stakeholders on the development and distribution of guidance materials for Strategic Approach activities</p>

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*Function of the Strategic Approach secretariat*


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*Proposed activities 2016–2020*


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| (e) | Provide guidance to stakeholders in the initiation of project proposals   | <p>Through the development of the information clearing house, make available further information on alternative funding mechanisms for different Strategic Approach stakeholder groups, such as the Global Environment Facility and the Special Programme, and provide guidance to stakeholders seeking assistance in developing project proposals</p> <p>Showcase QSP results and demonstrate to project proponents the elements of successful projects and from whom to seek further information, contributing to sustainability of impacts</p> <p>Increasingly provide additional guidance, beyond the QSP, based on QSP lessons learned and identified best practices, for such programmes. In particular, build strong working relationships and facilitate information sharing with the secretariats of the Special Programme on Institutional Strengthening and the Global Environment Facility</p>   |
| (f) | Provide information clearing-house services   | <p>Promote the exchange of relevant scientific and technical information by consolidating relationships with stakeholders</p> <p>Facilitate the development and dissemination of guidance materials (including funding mechanisms) and communication tools to support the implementation of the Strategic Approach by stakeholders</p> <p>Cooperate with IOMC participating organizations and multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, in particular the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, to facilitate information- and knowledge-sharing</p> <p>Assist in the implementation of the Integrated Approach, in particular by supporting the mainstreaming of sound management of chemicals into development planning by linking stakeholders to relevant work under the Sustainable Development Goals and other areas</p> <p>Comply with the information-sharing requirements of any approved resolution at the fourth session of the Conference, including as contained in the overall orientation and guidance, in cooperation with stakeholders and relevant actors, in particular through the Strategic Approach website and information clearing-house mechanism</p> |
| (g) | Ensure that recommendations from the Conference are conveyed to relevant global and regional organizations and institutions | <p>In follow-up to the fourth session of the Conference, liaise with all stakeholders on the recommendations, resolutions and outcomes of the Conference, including through stakeholder and sector consultations</p> <p>The secretariat will submit relevant outcomes of the Conference to different forums, such as the United Nations Environment Assembly, the World Health Assembly, the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and others, as appropriate</p>   |
| (h) | Promote the exchange of relevant scientific and technical information   | <p>Continue to keep abreast of stakeholder requests for more scientific and technical information and the provision of such information</p> <p>It is intended that the clearing house would act as the central forum for requesting updated guidance on scientific and technical matters on sound chemicals management, in close coordination with emerging policy issue leads and all relevant stakeholders, and dissemination of materials from a variety of stakeholders. The secretariat would perform that function in a comprehensive, proactive and routine manner. Furthermore, that could include the increased use of e-courses, video classes, webinars and distance learning activities, possibly increasing synergies with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention, IOMC participating organizations, the UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch and other relevant organizations or networks</p> <p>Strengthened capacity to run a clearing house effectively would satisfy the request in the overall orientation and guidance to improve the accessibility of information at all levels of society</p>  |

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*Function of the Strategic Approach  
secretariat*

*Proposed activities 2016–2020*

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- (i) Establish and maintain a working relationship with participating organizations of the IOMC
- Continue to participate in biannual meetings of the IOMC and arrange for the participating organizations of the IOMC to take part in regional meetings of the Strategic Approach
- IOMC partners will be engaged in submitting material for the regular Strategic Approach broadcasts of news and updates
- A fully functioning information clearing house could serve to formalize the submission of materials of interest to Strategic Approach stakeholders and help develop working relationships
- Perform a coordination function with the lead organizations of the emerging policy issues to assist with development of work plans, monitor progress of work and update stakeholders in the intersessional period

**Resolution I/4: Quick Start Programme**

- (a) Facilitate meetings of the Quick Start Programme Executive Board and the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund Implementation Committee
- The secretariat will continue to organize QSP Executive Board meetings on an annual basis, provisionally up to and including 2019, until all QSP projects are finalized
- The secretariat will continue to support and coordinate QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee meetings on an annual basis, provisionally up to and including 2019, until all projects are finalized
- (b) Provide administrative support to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund
- Monitor QSP budget and donor contributions and coordinate the preparation of reports to donors
- (d) Other activities
- Continue to coordinate the development and dissemination of communication materials of projects and of the Programme to showcase the success of the QSP using appropriate resources, including the Strategic Approach information clearing house, if available, and the Strategic Approach website
- Support to the final evaluation by the United Nations Environment Programme of the QSP upon its closure

**Resolution II/4: emerging policy issues**

- (a) Implement procedures for receiving and screening nominations of emerging policy issues
- If a new nomination of emerging policy issue is received, the secretariat will put in place the procedure for screening the nomination for future consideration
- (b) Report on progress on emerging policy issues
- Coordinate work, report on the agreed emerging policy issues and provide updates at regional meetings, the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the fifth session of the Conference. Greater focus could be placed on evaluating the success of activities under the emerging policy issues and how that supports the achievement of the 2020 goal and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- The secretariat will continue to cooperate closely with IOMC participating organizations and facilitate the exchange of information and access to guidance documents on emerging policy issues
- Report to the Conference at its fifth session on further progress made on the work on emerging policy issues. The information clearing house would be used as a means to communicate reports and developments with regard to the emerging policy issues
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## **Annex II**

### **The Secretary-General's message to the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4)**

**Geneva, 28 September–2 October, 2015**

It is a pleasure to convey my best wishes to the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

At home and at play, in business and on our farms, more than 100,000 chemical substances are on the market or found in products that we use nearly every day. Many of these substances are critical for our livelihoods, for our health or for our survival.

We are also too well aware of the dangers that unsound management of chemicals can pose to our health, environment and economies. The infant death rate from environmental causes overall is 12 times higher in developing than in developed countries, reflecting the human health gain that could be achieved by supporting healthy environments.

Businesses that use safer alternatives in product manufacturing benefit from steady or increased sales, and deliver a better and more credible brand. The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) framework brings together all stakeholders and sectors to minimize the adverse effects of chemicals on human health and the environment..

As chemical production and use increases worldwide -- and at a faster rate in developing countries than anywhere else -- I will look to you for continued leadership in addressing the risks and building capacity for governance, information-sharing, and risk reduction..

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development emphasizes the importance of sound management of chemicals and waste. Our challenge is to strengthen our efforts to achieve that objective. The United Nations looks forward to working with you towards our shared goals: human well-being, clean food, air and water, and thriving ecosystems. The world counts on you to make every effort to achieve a chemical-safe future by 2020 and beyond.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful conference.

## Annex III

### Priorities of the health sector towards achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management: results of the World Health Organization consultation

#### SAICM health sector input to implementation of the Strategic Approach, and the Overall Orientation and Guidance, for the period 2015 to 2020

1. During the negotiation of the Strategic Approach the health sector, through a process facilitated by WHO and as reported to the 59th World Health Assembly, identified a number of priorities which are reflected in the Strategic Approach. These “health sector priorities” were based on input from 78 countries.
2. In addition to the health sector priorities, the third session of the International Conference adopted a Strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach, which suggested possible activities to be undertaken voluntarily to fulfil the objectives of the strategy.
3. In 2015, in order to take stock and inform health sector priorities and activities in the remaining period to 2020, WHO consulted with health sector stakeholders about the attention needed in future to the identified priorities and activities as well as any additional priorities and activities. Input was received from 45 governmental stakeholders and 17 other stakeholders from 51 countries. Additional input was also provided through WHO regional consultations and reports. A detailed report of this input was submitted to the fourth session of the International Conference, including updated health sector priorities.
4. During the development of the Strategic Approach, countries emphasized the importance of work at regional and country level, and the 2015 WHO consultations demonstrated that in some regions and countries certain priorities will need more attention than others. Detailed information to guide future regional work can be found in the above-mentioned WHO report.
5. In the 2015 WHO consultation, governments and other health sector stakeholders in the Strategic Approach reaffirmed the continued relevance of the activities set out in the Strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach. These activities are cross-cutting and will support implementation of the health sector priorities in the period to 2020.
6. A summary of the main global priority areas of health input to implementation of the Strategic Approach, and the Overall Orientation and Guidance follow. These represent updated health sector priorities for the period 2015 to 2020. Included in parentheses are the “basic elements” of the Overall Orientation and Guidance that the priority will particularly support.
  - **Devising better and standardized methods to determine impacts of chemicals on health, to set priorities for action and to evaluate the effectiveness of policies and progress of the Strategic Approach.** These methods should be able to be used at country level and will also assist in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. More monitoring and surveillance data are needed, accompanied by guidance to interpret results. (Supports basic element *j*)
  - **Formulating strategies aimed at prevention of ill-health and disease caused throughout the life course by chemicals, including strategies directed specifically at the health of children and workers.** This should include strategies such as improved methods to identify susceptible windows of development in children, and worker screening and health surveillance. Strategies need to include strengthening legislation, policies and health information systems, training, education and capacity building in risk communication. Expertise in implementing strategies needs to be shared among countries. (Supports basic elements *a*, *c*, *d* and *g*)
  - **Building capabilities of countries to deal with poisonings and chemical incidents and emergencies,** and to achieve the core capacities for chemicals under the International Health Regulations (2005). This requires establishment and institutional strengthening of poisons centres, as well as fully functioning surveillance, alert and response mechanisms for chemical incidents and emergencies. (Supports basic elements *d* and *i*)

- **Promoting alternatives to highly toxic and persistent chemicals**, taking into account the life-cycle of chemicals including waste. This requires interaction between the health and other sectors that develop new chemicals, technologies and products. (Supports basic element *k*)
- **Filling of gaps in scientific knowledge**, such as gaps in understanding of endocrine-active chemicals, nanomaterials, and combined exposures to multiple chemicals. This will facilitate better risk assessment and risk management decision-making. (Supports basic element *h*)
- **Elaborating globally harmonized methods for chemical risk assessment**, to enhance transparency and understanding, enable work-sharing and reduce duplication of effort, particularly in hazard assessment. More work is needed to develop exposure assessment methodologies that are applicable to different country use patterns and climate. (Supports basic element *h*).
- **Actions to improve ability to access, interpret and apply scientific knowledge, particularly** in developing countries, as well as making knowledge available in forms relevant to end users. These actions include using new science in risk assessment, the sharing and use of existing risk assessments, and sharing experience in risk management. (Supports basic element *e*)

7. The capacity of the health sector to implement the identified priorities and activities varies greatly between countries and regions. Institutional strengthening will be required in many countries in order to achieve the 2020 goal, and is an urgent need in countries with weak health systems facing multiple health challenges.

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